

SLINGSHOT

Free

Feb/March 2005

Issue #85



Página

8 & 9 en

Español

STINGERSHOT

Strike the war's Achilles heel

Targeting military recruiters can starve the military of fresh meat for its body bags

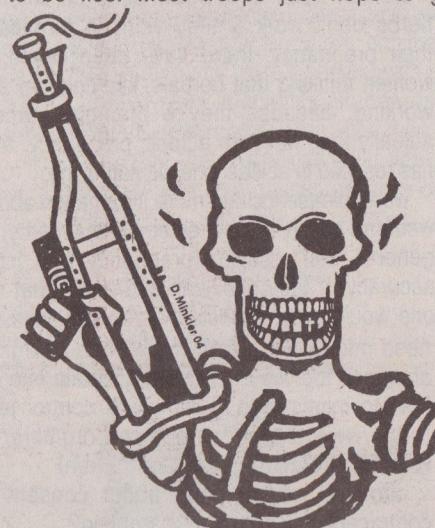
By PB Floyd

The recent elections in Iraq — all of the feel-good pictures on TV and rhetoric about freedom and democracy — can't change the reality that the US military is bogged down in a quagmire in Iraq for which there is no exit strategy. Recall that even though the US organized elections in South Vietnam in 1967, fighting dragged on for another 8 years anyway. There are more and more parallels between the war in Iraq and Vietnam — the US Army may be the most powerful in the world with overwhelming firepower and lots of gadgets, but in a guerrilla war, no amount of violence or killing can bring victory against a determined population. In fact, the presence of 150,000 US troops is widely believed to fuel and unite the insurgency.

While there are parallels between Vietnam and Iraq, there is one huge difference which may turn out to be the Achilles heel for the US regime — this time there is no draft: the Army is an "all-volunteer force." Here in the US, those of us who stand against the US imperial machine need to seize on this weakness and figure out ways to corrode away US military might from the inside by depriving it of what it hungers for the most — fresh American men and women to fill the body bags.

Just like in Vietnam, American troops who originally went to Iraq hoping to help "rebuild"

and "bring democracy and freedom" are now coming to realize that the Iraqis don't want them there, that there is never rebuilding — only killing and destruction — and that all the glorious reasons for the war have turned out to be lies. Most troops just hope to get



through their time in Iraq and make it home alive.

There are huge opportunities for US-based opponents of a Yankee empire to cooperate with US troops who are increasingly skeptical about the war. Vietnam ultimately became unwinable because the troops refused to fight

— instead, they killed their officers, deserted, claimed Conscientious Objector status, published underground military papers, went on strike, or just stopped trying in a million tiny ways. Folks at home helped where they could — setting up anti-war coffee houses outside bases, doing draft and pre-enlistment counseling, assisting deserters along an underground railroad and undermining domestic support for the war.

A month before the Iraq war, millions of people around the world demonstrated — but Bush held the power, and his ears were closed. As the war drags on, we need to shift from a short-term strategy to a long-term one. Huge turnouts at grandly orchestrated demonstration rituals have not been effective in breaking Bush's ability to fight. A majority of the population *does not support the war* — 54 percent according to a January 19 *Los Angeles Times* poll — yet it continues. Those in power won't stop it. But if the troops stop fighting — or if the army can't get fresh troops — Bush will be unable to continue. The troops have the ultimate power in this situation — we need to support our troops by supporting their resistance. The US is risking their lives for *nothing* — it's time for them to fight back!

In addition to cooperating with troops already in the military, US-based activists can help cut off the supply of fresh recruits. The US's military recruiting machine operates in every town, in every high school, across the USA. (See list of recruiting stations, page 14.) The recruitment machine is a soft-target. By carrying out actions at military recruiting outposts all over the US, we can bring the war home and make the real connections between the pointless war in Iraq and our own

**Este artículo en
Español en página 8**

communities. Why should the US military machine get a free pass here at home?

Since the government ended the draft, the US military has depended on a "poverty draft" to fill the ranks of the military. While the military is theoretically "all-volunteer," lack of economic opportunities push poorer people into the military — sometimes to get elusive money for college — while middle class kids go straight to college. The military spends \$2.5 billion a year on recruiting efforts which

Continued on page 14

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Just like in Vietnam, American troops who originally went to Iraq hoping to help "rebuild"

Sunday school for sinners

Comprehending the Christian Community

By molly coddle

Some radicals have intimate contact with Christian conservatism, through family or community. Others have seen it only on TV or as "opposition" at a protest, like the January anti-choice rally in San Francisco. Perhaps some people have even worked on issues with the more progressive Christians. Whatever we know, it is not enough. The breadth and pervasiveness of modern American Christianity make it imperative that we study in order to overcome. And, though the social

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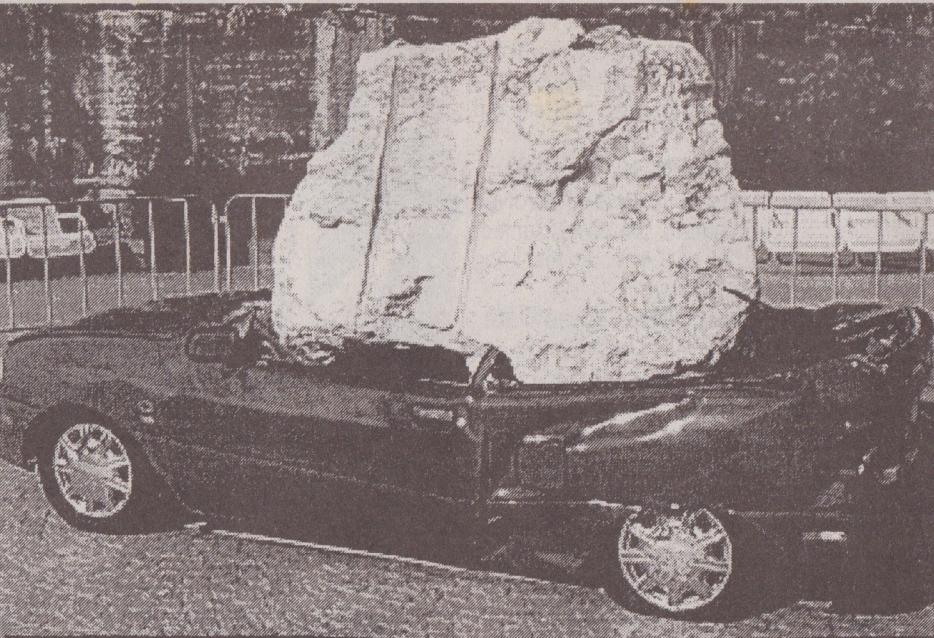
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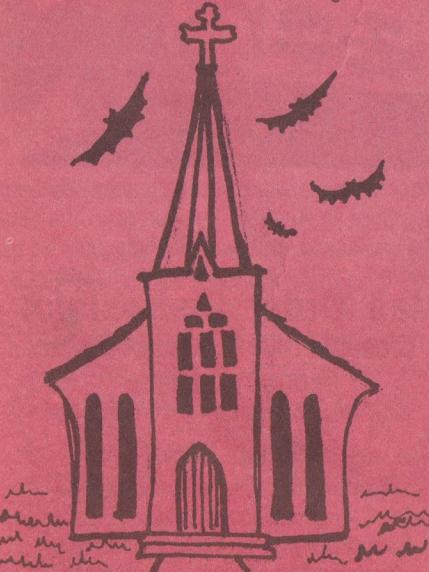
Global WARMing

Sunday school for sinners

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repressiveness of Christianity is often touted, little is written on the left about why Christianity has become so successful.

One of the best marketing tools used in the last decade by the right has been the label "compassionate conservative." This term has found a home along the economic spectrum of the right, demonstrating its flexibility. For those who are "conservative" and wealthy, it

has come to mean "I want my cash but I don't mean to screw anyone else." For those who are social/moral conservatives, the message is more "When I impose the morals of Christ, I'm doing it for the good of those degenerate, sinning, murderous homosexuals." Kind of like killing the Inca so they couldn't sin after baptism. What this means for us is a united front of language and action that isn't easily penetrated. Conservatives (in fact, all ruling power) have been ok with contradiction for a long time, and pointing out that war and the murder of doctors is at least as wrong as abortion isn't liable to change anyone's mind.

The other duality of conservatism (besides its fiscal/moral split), is its neighbor/enemy stance. Though the Gospels tell us that we should have compassion and find a way to humiliate rather than kill our enemies, the modern interpretation has been much more tribal. Christians are very likely to help you out in a pinch (this is good to remember if you are traveling cross-country), but their leaders are also likely to raid your ass in a crusade if you threaten the obesity of their empire.

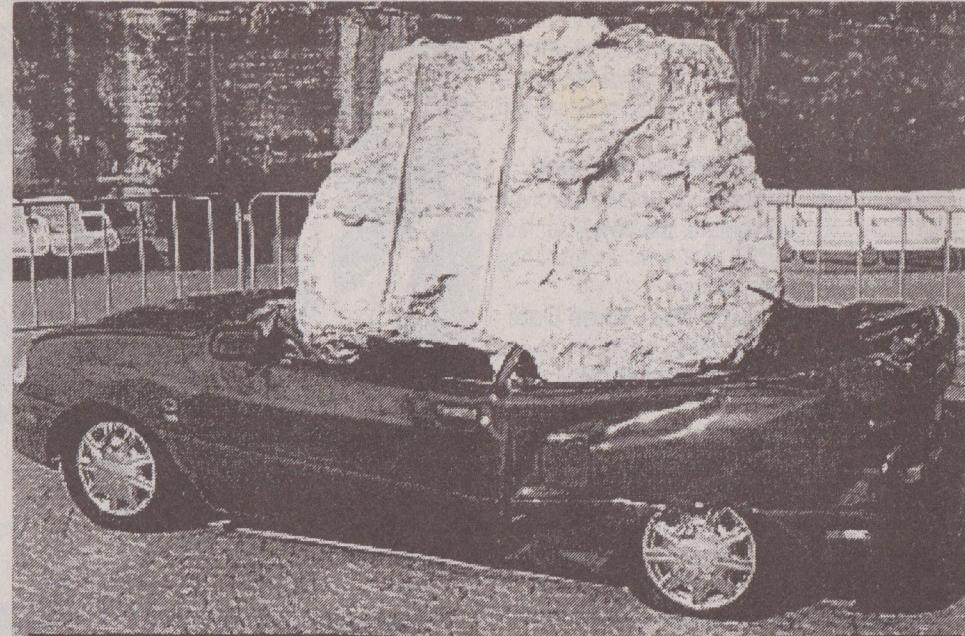
So, just as many of us resist the blanket definitions of anarchist/radical/left-of-left, we must know what kind of Christian we are talking to. Are they pacifist, non-evangelizing soup kitchen folk or door to door bible salesmen with a message of apocalypse? Maybe they are permaculturing, off-the-grid survivalists who use alternative fuels, shelter travelers and make jam? It's only respectful to find out who you're speaking to or about. However, remember that it's for Jesus.

TRAITS OF SUCCESS

The success of churches today rests on many pillars. First, the capitalist-libertarian

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light back.



Global WARMing

'Emissions reductions' under capitalism are a cruel hoax — radicals demand zero emissions

By xarick nerdcore-madness

A year-round swimsuit season? Cool! Global warming is now an American household concept, thanks to compelling doomsday scientific evidence, myriad legislative and technology-based 'solutions' — and a dominant culture of consumption that doesn't give a fuck about the end results of catastrophic climate change.

Is this the point at which radical activists can safely hand over the campaign to progressive lobbyists and industry leaders, who float rosy tales of stellar fuel efficiency standards, clean coal technology, and industrial emissions trading — the ultimate in green capitalism?

Radicals, our work continues to be crucial: we can put the concept of *stopping emissions* back in the public mindset — demonstrating that gradual improvement ultimately doesn't work within a context that continues to prioritize economic growth above

all else. With creative thinking, radical activists can supplement pragmatic approaches, emphasizing global warming as a systemic flaw in capitalism joining racism, classism, poverty, and environmental concerns on global scales.

Strangely, after decades of study, and increasing evidence that humans are altering the earth's climate, the subject is still debated. Conservative papers, like the New York Post, use blizzards and winters storms to joke that "it's not getting any warmer!" They're missing the point. Warmer average global temperatures don't mean more pleasant days at the beach; the sobering consequences extend far beyond longer growing seasons and expanded access to Arctic shipping routes. Rising temperatures mean atmospheric chaos, manifesting in erratic weather patterns: severe droughts, heavy rainstorms, heat

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SLINGSHOT

Slingshot is an independent, volunteer-run, more-often-than-quarterly radical newspaper published in the East Bay since 1988.

Though it sometimes appears that repression is increasing nationally and internationally and there's little hope of political relief in the States any time soon, we're gonna continue on with the paper. Every stone you throw is important, even against armored tanks. Eventually, there will be enough of us to use catapults.

In March, Slingshot turns 17 years old! Never coquettish, we're proud to be outspoken and wacky.

Last issue, we put out a call for more submissions, and we've been inundated with 'em. Having more material to create the paper does at least three things: it lets us focus more on layout and editing, usually raises the quality of material in the paper, and improves the political and geographical diversity. This issue's articles are from authors in Tennessee, Thailand and Japan — as well as Berkeley and Oakland. So, we again urge you to send us your articles. Slingshot is part-you, part-us.

As you'll notice, there's a Spanish page in this issue! Thanks to the translators!!! We'd love more (or any!) Spanish or bilingual submissions.

Thanks to Holi (www.kontravision.com) for the poster on page 11 and to Nikki McClure for the cover art (www.stellamars.com). Nikki cuts her pictures from paper using an x-acto knife! We love it when people send us fantastic art. In publishing these two pieces of art, we once again saw our archaic, pre-computerized, wax and scissors production methods running up against the sad, modern reality that publishing is all computerized now. How long can we hold out against the micro-chip tide? We don't know for sure, but whereas it once was about our lack of money to buy computers, now its about soul. A digitized world is a cold lifeless world.

This issue was brought to you by beer, hot tubs, New Zealand stripes, and a fabulous

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hijklmnoletters pqrsuvwxyz letters abcdefghijklmnoletters pqrs
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herbs not the only abortion option

- Hi slingshot-ers.

Thanks for the new organizer, i'm glad for the update in the back pages! no more west coast astrology charts' (finally!!) & plus the inclusion of the periodical table rocks!

i am a anarcho-single-mom. i am excited to see stuff on relationships & more sex positive info.

i am concerned about some of the reproductive health care information. i come from a fierclly-pro choice backgrand & as a young mama myself & am now in medical skool...so i have done TONS of research about contraception & options if you're pregnant.

first, i hope that next year you'll include more on contraception (and more alternatives to penis vagina sex)

mostly, tho, i am concerned about the over-reliance on herbs as effective forms of birth control/abortifacents. i've noticed in the ecoanarcho-scene that there is a vibe that looks down on hormonal birth control, or even the IUD etc, as "not natural". basically i think that a lot of folks in our scenes judge herbs as being the ultimate form of health care. i've seen SO many women get prego using "natural family planning" and SO many women's herbal abortions fail. the most optimistic data i've read is that 50 % of herbal remedies work in preventing pregnancy. but, elsewhere i've read that herbal remedies (vit C, carrot seed, cohosh etc) are no better than placebos. basically, women are gunna get seriously shafted if they rely soley on this herb information (which, hey, hopefully no one is

doing but

its really important for me to make sure that women who are maybe unexpectedly pregnant make sure that they have a health care provider & a support system. Plan B is readily accessible in most major cities & college campuses, but if women wait a few days to see if their carrot seeds kick in, they aren't going to have the time to take Plan B. (Also, plan E works upto FIVE DAYS...not 3...and in some cities is available thru a pharmacist, not just thru a doctor's visit & is covered by most Medical Assistance.) anyhow, if women don't want to deal with a pregnancy crisis we should not advocate carrot seeds as a radical remedy.

women need to know what to do when/ if herbs don't work & they want to terminate their pregnancy. there have been cases of women thinking that herbals, like cohosh, are working, because they're cramping, when actually they have an ectopic pregnancy. this has resulted in at least one woman dying.

word, please include more information about women's health! please remember that herbs, in general, don't prevent pregnancy with high accuracy. if they did i can guarantee that no one would be unexpectedly pregnant. women need information about medical and surgical abortions too! we need more accurate info on how to mimic Plan B with birth control pills. (<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/library/BIRTHCONTROL/EmergContra.htm>)

can you add a page about consent & contraception? abortion? parenting?

thanxx
rebecca

sequoia sempervirens
"coast redwood"

thanks, "Junkie"

Dear Slingshot:
i just wanted to write to let you know that i really enjoyed reading the article, "Junkie: We the People" in issue 83, Autumn 2004. i have had a history with drug use and while fortunately i never got into using anything harder than marijuana, i still ended up spending a summer in rehab at the end of my freshman year in high school. after that i got into the whole underground scene and decided to claim edge and until i went to college this last fall i kept that edge. but yeah, i just really liked what you said about seeing people not as junkies or as the stigmas society has created, because having been edge even after experiencing some of the struggles of drug use myself, i started to lose sight of that, and it wasn't until recently that i realized what a closed-minded person i had become. and i still see a lot of alienation from the straight-edge kids toward those who are not. i don't know, this turned out to be really scattered and somewhat incoherent, but i just wanted to let you know that i thought it was cool that you would write an article on this subject especially within a community that is (ironically) many times very closed minded to the free-thinking that you have displayed.

- col

**SUPPORT
RADICAL
EDUCATION:
send your zines!**

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This issue was brought to you by beer, hot tubs, New Zealand stripes, and a fabulous quiche made from dumpstered eggs. Never pay for eggs in Alameda County!

As always, editorial decisions are made by the Slingshot collective, but not all the articles reflect the opinions of all collective members. We welcome debate, constructive criticism and discussion.

Slingshot New Volunteer Meeting

Volunteers interested in getting involved with Slingshot can come to the new volunteer meeting February 27 at 1 p.m. at the Long Haul in Berkeley (see below).

Article Deadline and Next Issue Date

Submit your articles for issue 86 by March 26, 2005 at 3 p.m. We expect the next issue out in early April.

Volume 1, Number 85, Circulation 12,000

Printed February 10, 2005

Slingshot Newspaper

Sponsored by Long Haul
3124 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, CA 94705

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Quotes heard around the loft this issue:

"Y'all are maniacal"

"What you say about your article is usually better than the article itself."

"The wax is still flowing."

contraception & options if you're pregnant.

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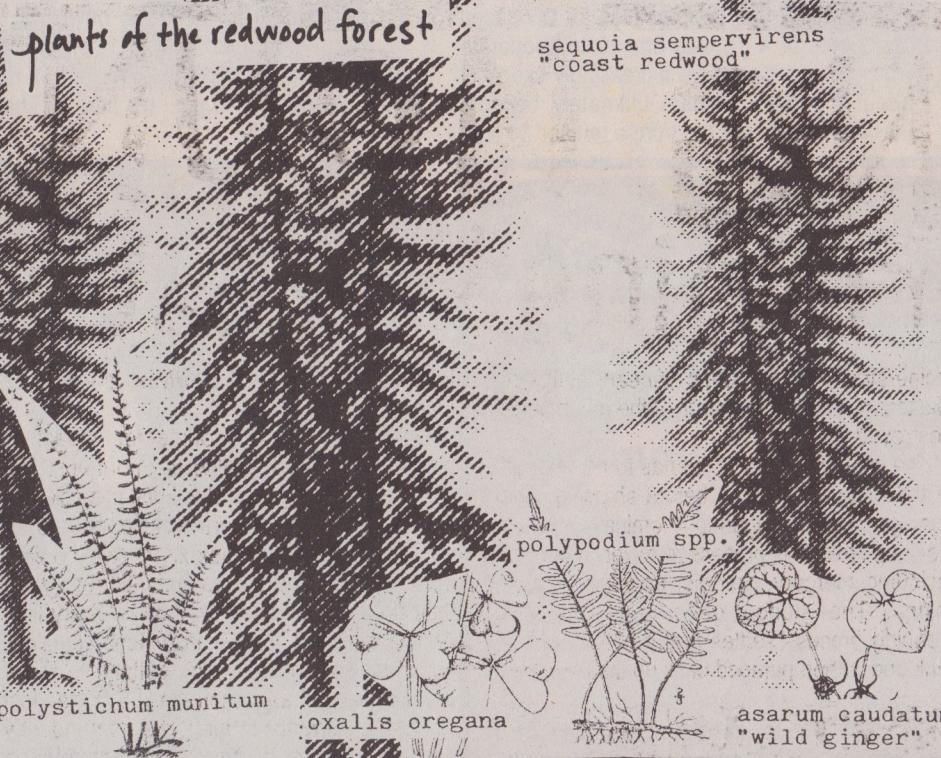
I'd like to request a subscription to Slingshot for Special English Program (SEP), a post-high school program in Umpium Mai Refugee Camp, Thailand, for Burmese refugees. The school has 100 adult students and is trying to build up the periodical library so students can learn about progressive politics.

Material with progressive/anarchist politics are especially useful because many of the students will do activist work in the community after graduation. We have a very limited budget so we were wondering if you and other indy publishers could donate subscriptions? Back issues would also be great.

The postal address is:
SEP School PO Box 114 Mae Sot, 63110
THAILAND

Please contact me if you need any more information and happy New Year.

In solidarity,
Dave



**LAST CALL for 2005
organizers**

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Slingshot publishing schedule — 2005

[All new volunteer meetings are at Long Haul in Berkeley at 1 p.m.]

Issue #87

New Volunteer meeting May 8

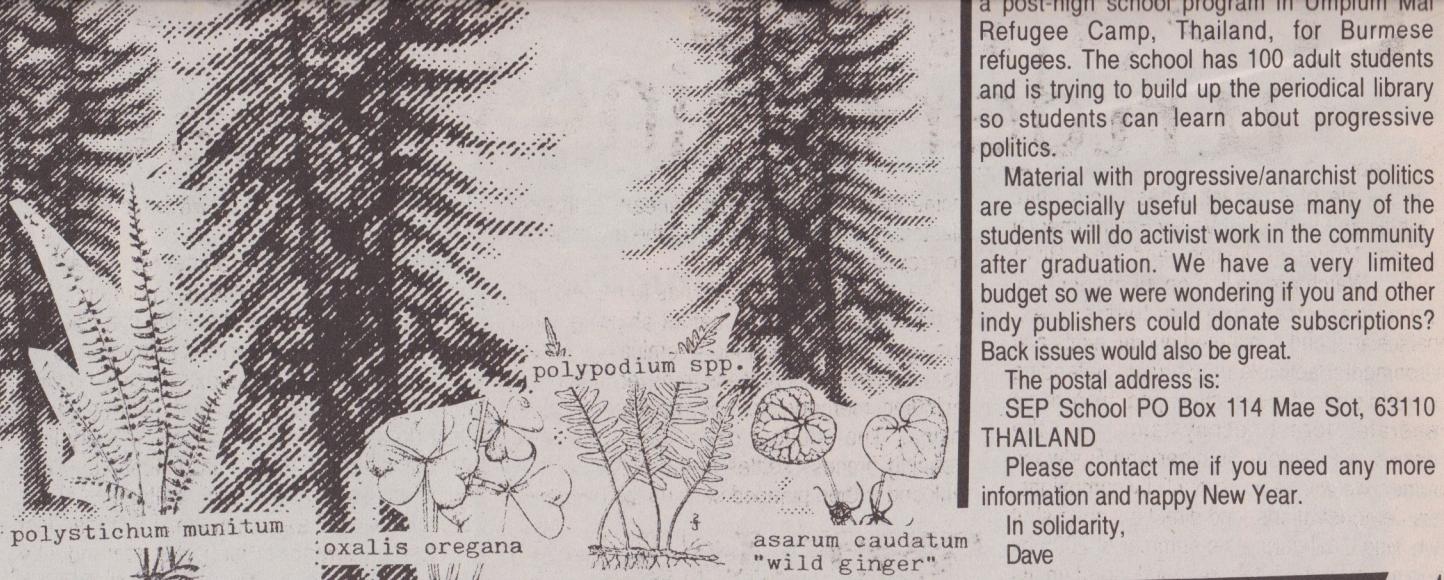
Deadline May 28

Out June 9

Circulation Information

Slingshot is free in the Bay Area and is available at Long Haul and Bound Together Books (SF), plus lots of other places. Contact us or come by if you want to distribute Slingshot for free in the Bay Area.

Subscriptions to Slingshot are free to prisoners, low income and anyone who owns a Slingshot organizer or \$1 per issue. International is \$2.50 per issue. Back issues are also available free or cheap. **Amazing national free distribution program:** Outside of the Bay Area, we'll mail a stack of free copies of Slingshot to distributors, infoshops, bookstores and random friendly individuals for FREE in the US if they give 'em out for free.



LAST CALL for 2005 organizers

Thanks to everyone who bought a 2005 Slingshot Organizer — they pay for this paper to be free all over the place. We're already working on the 2006 Organizer, expected out October 1, 2005. If you bought a 2005 Organizer from anyone — Infoshop, mail order, whatever — you can get a free one-year mail subscription to *Slingshot newspaper* — send us an email, postcard, etc. with your mailing address. This offer is good within the USA only. If you bought an organizer in another country and want a subscription email us and we'll give you a nifty discount or other offer.

Closeout sale: We still have some leftover copies of the small 2005 version of the organizer. Because we printed too many, we're having a sale on the small size: just \$1.50 each wholesale after February 14. You have to order at least 20 copies to get this price. If you want to order, send a check or money order. If you have an account with us, you can also email or call us. If you want less

than 20 copies, you'll have to order from a retail mail order distro — they have sale prices as low as \$2.67 per copy — see the list below.

Spiral Big-shots: We ran out of the spiral version, but recently received some returns so we have a few in stock.

Distributors: If you are a distributor, please call us after February 14 if you have extra copies that you want to return. We would like you to pay us the normal price for copies you sold before February 14, and we'll offer you the sale price of \$1.50 per copy for any copies you still have left over after February 14. If you don't want to do that, we can take the return and send you a credit, but please don't return copies without talking to us first. If you paid up front, we can send you money back to even everything up.

Deadline for 2006 Organizer: If you have ideas for the 2006 version (cr graphics or historical dates, etc.) send them to us by July 1 or sooner. We're always looking for more listings for our radical contact list, so if you

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Dave

address and usually a phone number. We'll put it together in August — if you're in the Bay Area in August and want to help out, let us know.

Mail Order Distro Info: Closeout Sale Prices good after February 14, only*

*Note: add 8.75% sales tax to orders from Calif.

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PO Box 3885, Berkeley, CA 94703

www.whoopdistro.org

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AK Press*

674 A 23rd Street Oakland, CA 94612
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1 small copy \$6.75 (includes shipping)

nothing natural about this disaster

By Bill Templer

How should anti-authoritarian socialists respond to the politics of the great wall of water of 12/26 in the Indian Ocean and the spectacle of its havoc? Its horrific tragedy is interwoven with the very architecture of our world system built on inequality, privilege and greed — structures of neo-colonial control and dependency, wealthy centers and desperately impoverished peripheries — and spliced with the image machinery of the society of the spectacle. The tsunami becomes a text through which to view anew the contradictions of this system highlighting the need for a world built on socialist principles of mutual aid and self-organization.

Why No Warning?

Giles Ji Ungpakorn has stressed: "As events in Thailand show, natural disasters, such as violent storms, earthquakes and tsunamis may have natural causes, but their effects are the result of the profit-driven system we live in." [2] The systems' priorities are inscribed in a chilling fact on the morning of 12/26: a warning was sent from Hawaii to the American military base on the island of Diego Garcia far south of Sri Lanka — while elsewhere there was silence. Here in Thailand, someone in Bangkok made a conscious decision not to "alarm" the tourists at the very peak of high season on the Andaman Sea coast [3]. Simple science in the hands of the masses could have saved tens of thousands [4].

There were a full two hours in Thailand

between the seaquake's first tremor at 8 a.m. and the cataclysm that hit our southwestern coasts at 10. One of my own students, a tour guide out in a longboat with 21 passengers at Bamboo Island in Krabi, escaped in the nick of time because she suddenly spotted the Great Wave coming, was near shore, and hurried her boat captain and astounded tourists to high ground. She had a cell phone in her pocket and could have easily been given a warning had her firm been notified. There was no warning.

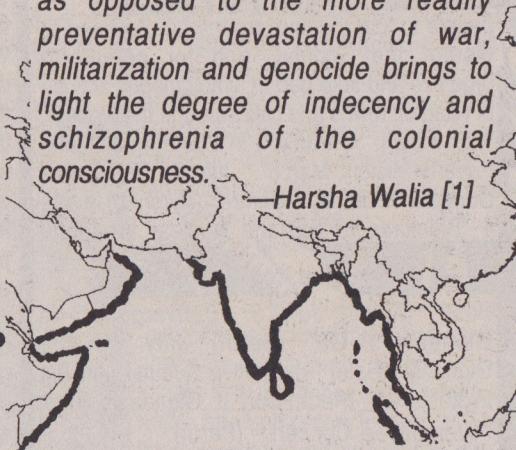
As Fred Goldstein notes: "Capitalist

THE HYPOCRISY OF GALA CHARITY DRIVES FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS AND PROFUSE "GIVING" — TO EASE OUR CONSCiences — WHILE OUR ARMY AND CORPORATIONS WAGE A WAR LITERALLY AGAINST THE WORLD.

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The compassion for more instantaneous "natural" disasters . . . as opposed to the more readily preventative devastation of war, militarization and genocide brings to light the degree of indecency and schizophrenia of the colonial consciousness.

Harsha Walia [1]



the government fully behind it could have evacuated thousands of people, even at the site closest to the epicenter of the tsunami. Evacuation to safety in most areas involved moving people only a relatively short distance from the coast. This holds in even greater measure for the high-casualty areas further from the quake, such as Thailand, Sri Lanka, India and of course East Africa" [5].

Horror on the Margins of a Margin

This has been a calamity on the "periphery of a periphery," massively affecting in the main simple fisher families and their economies where people live literally on the edge. Natural disasters affect poor and developing

countries disproportionately because the struggle of the down-and-out for daily survival does not allow for disaster preparedness. And as mappings at the Earth Institute at Columbia University clearly show, most of the "disaster hot spots" on our planet lie in the Global South. The geology and meteorology of calamity ominously overlap with the geography of poverty [6].

Profits not Mangroves

Yet this calamity was due in significant part not to geology but to massive environmental degradation as a result of a profit-driven system of priorities: the destruction of the mangrove forests along the coasts of the Indian Ocean over the past two decades, sacrificed to tourism development and excessive shrimp farming. As Devinder Sharma has stressed, the devastation wrought by this wall of water was "the outcome of an insane economic system — led by the World Bank and IMF — that believes in usurping environment, nature and human lives for the sake of unsustainable economic growth for a few" [7]. Nearly 72 per cent of the shrimp farming is confined to Asia, and the expansion of this shrimp farming in India, Thailand, Indonesia and elsewhere, has been specifically at the cost of tropical mangroves — amongst the world's most important ecosystems. Here as elsewhere, the priorities of the World Bank

Continued on page 18

spectacle. The tsunami becomes a text through which to view anew the contradictions of this system highlighting the need for a world built on socialist principles of mutual aid and self-organization.

Why No Warning?

Giles Ji Ungpakorn has stressed: "As events in Thailand show, natural disasters, such as violent storms, earthquakes and tsunamis may have natural causes, but their effects are the result of the profit-driven system we live in." [2] The systems' priorities are inscribed in a chilling fact on the morning of 12/26: a warning was sent from Hawaii to the American military base on the island of Diego Garcia far south of Sri Lanka — while elsewhere there was silence. Here in Thailand, someone in Bangkok made a conscious decision not to "alarm" the tourists at the very peak of high season on the Andaman Sea coast [3]. Simple science in the hands of the masses could have saved tens of thousands [4].

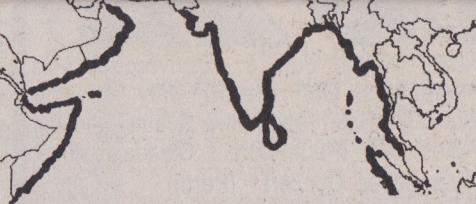
There were a full two hours in Thailand

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Continued on page 18

MOVING MOUNTAINS undermining the coal industry

By Bo Webb

The people of Appalachia need your help. Katuah Earth First!, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Mountain Justice, and Coal River Mountain Watch are calling on all residents of Appalachia, traveling activists, ex-Appalachians, and concerned human rights and environmental activists to join us in defending the world's most productive and biodiverse temperate forest ecosystems. In the traditions of Freedom Summer and Redwood Summer, we will be using publicity campaigns, mass demonstrations, and direct action to shut down King Coal during the summer of 2005 by stopping mountain top removal dead in its tracks.

Most Americans have never heard the words "mountain range removal/mountain top removal" It's the dirty little secret that the U.S. government wants to keep hidden from the eyes of America, and the world. There is no better example of a human catastrophe linked

incinerated or buried deep beneath heaps of blasted rock. The ecosystem of the mountain is destroyed forever.

The coal that is extracted has to be cleaned at the preparation plant before shipping. The coal goes into a gigantic chemically treated cleaning tank. This process removes impurities including mercury, arsenic, and many other toxins. The sludge generated from this cleaning process settles in the bottom of the tank and is then pumped back up the mountain

to keep the coal dust down on the way to market.

Obviously, the environmental impact to plants, trees, and wildlife is enormous. But what about the impact on the human species? The coal industry portrays opponents of mountain top removal as extremists who care more about birds, bats, and bullfrogs than they do about people. The coal industry lies. Appalachian PEOPLE — individuals, families, communities, and an entire culture — suffer the coal barons' abuses in the U.S.'s mad lust for cheap, dirty fossil fuel. The coal industry and the media portray Appalachians as ignorant, backward, inbred hillbillies who are completely undeserving of the mountains in which they live. By dehumanizing the mountain residents, the coal industry uses the same tactics used by all colonial powers to justify robbing, displacing, and massacring the people of Appalachia. The struggle in Appalachia with

Fork impoundment is the largest sludge dam in the United States. It currently contains 7 billion gallons of sludge and it is scheduled to soon grow to over 9 billion gallons. If it fails, all life will most likely be lost for 40 miles downstream. A smaller dam than this one caused the 1972 Buffalo Creek, West Virginia disaster, in which 127 residents were killed.

Despite all the hardship caused by mining, the people of Appalachia keep hanging on. They're hoping for better days ahead or they're just too stubborn to leave the land that has been in their families for eight or nine generations. Meanwhile, the coal industry convinces the masses that Appalachia must be leveled in order to provide employment and national security. Yet, as coal production has risen, coal employment in West Virginia has dropped nearly 75% in the last 20 years, due in large part to mountain top removal (source: WV Coal Association). Mountain top removal



undermining the coal industry

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Most Americans have never heard the words "mountain range removal/mountain top removal" It's the dirty little secret that the U.S. government wants to keep hidden from the eyes of America, and the world. There is no better example of a human catastrophe linked to environmental destruction than life in the coal fields of Appalachia.

What is mountain top removal? It starts with the removal of all vegetation. Trees are bulldozed over and pushed into the valleys to be burned. Huge access roads are then built in order to bring in mammoth earth moving equipment. This alone requires much blasting, but once the equipment is in place, the real horror begins. Holes are drilled in the ground, and then packed with high explosives. Part of the mountain is then literally blown away.

Next come the giant earth movers (GEM) that dump all that is not coal (called overburden) into nearby valleys, burying mountain streams with pulverized rock, iron, copper, lead, chromium, mercury, and many other heavy metals that were once buried deep in the earth. Next, the coal is removed and sent down the mountain by beltline. The blasting and mutilation continue until all seams of coal are extracted, sometimes taking off 900 feet or more of the mountain, and creating huge valley fills above the homes of us who live there. What used to be rich topsoil is either

incinerated or buried deep beneath heaps of blasted rock. The ecosystem of the mountain is destroyed forever.

The coal that is extracted has to be cleaned at the preparation plant before shipping. The coal goes into a gigantic chemically treated cleaning tank. This process removes impurities including mercury, arsenic, and many other toxins. The sludge generated from this cleaning process settles in the bottom of the tank and is then pumped back up the mountain



and put into huge toxic sludge lakes confined by an earthen dam. The cleaned coal is then loaded into train cars or coal trucks and sprayed with a chemical binding agent in order

to keep the coal dust down on the way to market.

Obviously, the environmental impact to plants, trees, and wildlife is enormous. But what about the impact on the human species? The coal industry portrays opponents of mountain top removal as extremists who care more about birds, bats, and bullfrogs than they do about people. The coal industry lies. Appalachian PEOPLE — individuals, families, communities, and an entire culture — suffer the coal barons' abuses in the U.S.'s mad lust for cheap, dirty fossil fuel. The coal industry and the media portray Appalachians as ignorant, backward, inbred hillbillies who are completely undeserving of the mountains in which they live. By dehumanizing the mountain residents, the coal industry uses the same tactics used by all colonial powers to justify robbing, displacing, and massacring the people of Appalachia. The struggle in Appalachia with the coal barons has been ongoing since the late 1800's.

Those of us living in the coal fields exist in a constant state of terror. Since there is neither vegetation nor topsoil on the mountain to absorb the rainfall, we live in fear when it rains. During a rainstorm, our children go to bed fully clothed, plotting escape routes in case we have to flee in the middle of the night.

We have had people swept away in mud slides and water tides, pouring down from mountain top removal sites. Yet, the coal companies have the audacity to call these events, "acts of God." In October of 2000, a sludge dam in Inez, Kentucky failed. Three hundred ten million gallons of toxic sludge spilled into Tug Fork of The Big Sandy River, destroying all aquatic life and poisoning ground water and soil for 110 miles downstream. These earthen dams will fail again. On the Coal River in southern West Virginia, there are four such dams pointed directly at communities and schools. All of them hold over two billion gallons of toxic sludge each. One of them, known as the Brushy

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A culture that allows these abuses will allow any abuse. We are being forced off our land and our mountain communities are being destroyed. Our mountains and valleys are being turned into a sacrifice zone for cheap electricity. Our Appalachian politicians ignore the pleas of their constituents while their pockets are lined with coal money. Our teachers, small business operators, and press are intimidated into silence. And the nation continues to waste energy by the megaton while coal companies and mountain top removal threaten to end our existence forever, putting the finishing touches to a long-standing cultural genocide.

To help, please contact The Mountain Justice Summer Coalition at: mountaininjusticesummer@hushmail.com or call (976) 456-2345

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST THE G8

Activists in Europe are calling for a Global Day of Action July 5-8 2005 to coincide with the G8 Summit at Gleneagles, Perthshire, United Kingdom (Scotland, around 40 miles / 70 km from Edinburgh). The G8 is made up of

the world's most powerful capitalist countries which meet annually to coordinate the global economy. The summit, and ongoing activities throughout the year, involves communication between central bankers, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, think tanks and government finance ministers. The G8 shapes the lives of workers around the world with scant public participation. Much of the

increasing trend towards a globalized world economy based on lowering wages, gutting environmental protection, increasing

privatization, destroying local farming and dividing workers across borders while uniting their bosses can be traced to the G8.

Dissent! Network in the UK has called for

people to join the convergence in Scotland to disrupt the Summit, and for people to organize and take part in simultaneous actions in villages, towns and cities around the world.

The plan: On July 2 in Edinburgh: "Make Poverty History March". July 3: "Protest at Dungavel Detention Centre" (Ayrshire). July 4 "Blockade of Faslane Nuclear Weapons

Base" (Argyll) July 5: "Convergence on Gleneagles G8" (Perth) July 6th-8th, Gleneagle Hotel "Alternative Summit and Big Protests G8" (Perth) July 9: Gleneagle Hotel "Alternatives Concert." (Perth)

For info, check out: www.agp.org or www.pgaconference.org and www.dissent.org.uk or email info-g82005@riseup.net

Anarchist People of Color 2005 CONFERENCE

Following up a successful 2003 Anarchist People of Color conference in Detroit, Michigan, the next Anarchist People of Color conference is being proposed for October 7-9, 2005 in Houston, Texas. Stay to the 10th to march against 500+ years of colonization on Monday October 10th (formally Columbus Day)!

Since the 2003 event, there have been APOC regional gatherings, new collectives and many projects, and we're still going strong. Where are we as a unified movement? Come discuss community action, theory, internal struggles, external struggles, with the larger theme of "We are one, we are many, and we are a part of something bigger..."

Anarchism offers a dynamic ideology and methods of struggle against racism, poverty, police brutality, and other issues affecting peoples of color. We add ideals about building movements based on the masses of people rather than charismatic leaders, and building a new kind of radicalism recognizing that the political government is not our friend, nor is electoral activity a way to obtain our freedom. We will get our freedom and justice in the streets when we stand up and take back our communities from the white power structure.

Finally, we present a new method of uniting all peoples of color against the common enemy, not just capitalism and the state, but white supremacy/European domination in all its forms.

**Oct. 7-9, 2005
Houston, Tex.**

As with the 2003 conference, the 2005 event is only open to people of color. Those sympathetic to the conference are encouraged to offer political support, solidarity and deep and honest understanding while we hold this conference and build our movement.

The conference will be kid friendly and some housing and travel assistance is available. There is a conference fee; no one turned away. For conference materials, downloadable flyers, information on how you can help, or anything else, visit www.illegalvoices.org/conference/. To participate, send your name, level of interest, commitment and what skills/committee you would like to contribute: conference@illegalvoices.org.

Surviving the
Side Effects of
Class Struggle

Mental Health in

increasing trend towards a globalized world economy based on lowering wages, gutting environmental protection, increasing

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Surviving the Side Effects of Class Struggle

By Dr. Ruthless

Some of our brothers and sisters have been struggling with physical and emotional injuries after recent confrontations with the police state. In response, many of us gathered at the Long Haul community center in Berkeley, Calif. to brain storm about coping with the psychological effects of police brutality. We agreed that a better support network is needed to help activists stay alive and active.

We are good at preparing for all the possibilities of any protest or direct action. We lend solidarity outside jails, inside court rooms, mobilize roaming medics and write phone numbers of law collectives on the back of our hands. We have empathy for anyone who has been shot at, tear gassed, beaten bloody, or had their limbs twisted and yanked out of their sockets by the cops. But once the visible wounds are healing, many of our friends are left alone with their fears, their sense of defeat, their suicidal despair, or the resulting addiction to pain pills. Those of us who cry openly are often told we shouldn't be surprised that we got hurt fighting the system. But such response grossly misinterprets and invalidates the feelings we

professional help for mental and emotional needs. Unlike medics and legal aid who simply must have knowledge of medical science or written rules, psychology is a surprisingly menacing field, and available support systems are hard to distinguish from cult-like communities and mind sets. The time to prevent further injury at the hands of these "professionals" is before we are traumatized to the degree of desperation, when it becomes especially easy to fall victim, and to research what type of safe support is available.

Hijacking Science to Justify Oppression

To understand the mental health system in place today, it is important to understand that psychiatry was never a medical profession, but has always been primarily a tool of oppression. It was first established as the Holy Inquisition was coming to an end, indeed actively replaced it by reclassifying "witches" as "mentally ill", and apologizing for the church sanctioned mass murders by explaining that the inquisitors were well-meaning but misguided by superstition, all the while validating their persecution of the endless victims of the witch

disorder until the 1970's, yet even though it was removed and invalidated as a disease at that time, queer youths are being incarcerated and drugged in psychiatric institutions to this day.

I don't doubt that many people feel they owe their lives to psychiatric drugs, or at least feel the drugs have been useful tools to help them function better. I certainly defend people's rights to take psychiatric drugs, or illegal street drugs for that matter, if they choose. But I won't legitimize these substances as medicine. Medications claiming to treat illnesses for which there are no medical evidence are experimental at best. All the tests of these drugs are designed, funded, and supervised entirely by the pharmaceutical companies themselves, with outrageous scientific protocols and manipulations of data. The side effects are rarely disclosed to "patients," especially those who are forced to take them. Aside from tragic changes in people's personalities and creative abilities, the most severe side effects range from tardive dyskinesia, a disorder similar to Parkinson's, and indicative of permanent brain damage, to seizures, coma, and unexplained

Mental Health in

the Radical
Community

5th Annual BASTARD Conference

BASTARD (Berkeley Anarchist Students of Theory And Research & Development) will be hosting their 5th annual anarchist conference on March 27th, 2005. It will be in the East Bay again this year, at UC Berkeley. There is no

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If we want to prevent burnout, and keep our activists from recoiling in fear of the next confrontation with reality, we all must learn to recognize trauma, develop a better understanding of the emotional impact it has on ourselves and on the community at large, and take the recovery of the individual out of isolation. Right now it is common for comrades who don't know how to deal with emotional crises, to encourage us to seek professional help, unaware that they are sending us into a mine field.

Having battled my way through the mental health industry, I am well aware of the difficulty and even dangers of finding

needs. Unlike medics and legal aid who simply must have knowledge of medical science or written rules, psychology is a surprisingly menacing field, and available support systems are hard to distinguish from cult-like communities and mind sets. The time to prevent further injury at the hands of these "professionals" is before we are traumatized to the degree of desperation, when it becomes especially easy to fall victim, and to research what type of safe support is available.

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Psychiatry was never based on science, nor is it today. There are no physiological tests to diagnose disease in psychiatric "patients", not even to find the chemical imbalances, which the current "scientific" fad attributes "mental illnesses" to, nor its supposed genetic origins. Diagnosis is based on talking and observing behavior, classifying culture and personal expression into categories according to the physician's own culture and personal opinions. It is not unusual for psychiatric "patients" to be diagnosed differently by each psychiatrist they see. The diagnostic standards themselves seem to change according to whim, weather, and regime change. The Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM) for psychiatrists listed homosexuality, for example, as a mental

disorder until the 1970's, yet even though it was removed and invalidated as a disease at that time, queer youths are being incarcerated and drugged in psychiatric institutions to this day.

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One should step inside psychiatric offices with great caution. No matter how good the intentions of individual psychiatrists, the

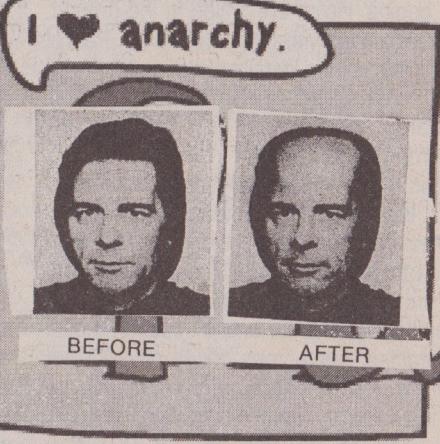
Continued on page 17

A civilization which tends to concentrate wealth and power in the hands of a fortunate few, and to make others mere human machines, must inevitably evolve anarchy and bring destruction.

Henry George

5th Annual BASTARD Conference

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Finger-bang Your Way Out of a Sex Rut!

By: Socket

I have been having a lot of great sex lately. But why am I sharing that information with you in this format? Well, I'll tell you. In this political and historical climate, great sex can be a quite subversive, expansive, and radical mode of dismantling socializations and creating alternatives to mainstream drone culture. More and more, the christian right's morals and limits are seeping into the larger culture. Take a look at fashion, security precautions, what is being passed off as education, entertainment, etc. This nauseating wave of puritanism and conservative values hangs in the air, almost unnoticed like the stale salty grease cloud present when passing a McDonald's. Subtle, toxic, bland, unhealthy, normative. So when I heard *Slingshot* wanted an article on how to have great sex, I thought, "Hell, let's queer it up and discuss perverting this political culture...time to fuck shit up- literally." I have a disclaimer, which is: These are merely my opinions and results of my experiences that are subject to change. If my experience doesn't work for you, please feel free to ignore and move on with your life.

And another thing, for clarity's sake, I am not discussing relationship models here: polyamory, monogamy or non, multi-fidelity, self-sexing, sleeping around, etc. Who we do it with and how we negotiate these relationships is indeed a part of having great sex, don't get me wrong. These preferences evolve and fluctuate. The intricacies are limitless and differ based on individual experiences. Therefore, discovering which models work for us, who we are attracted to, how we show it and how often, are personal choices I'd rather keep distinct from the issues I am about to go

sources. Laughing is also a good way to express sensation. Noise in general during sex is, in my opinion, a fabulous added layer to events. Sound can act as a reflection of what is going on and also act as a release for the sensations being experienced; crying, screaming, moaning, gasping are all marvelous additions to this sex symphony. Something about laughing, for me, just enhances the intimacy and the experience in general.

Role-Play

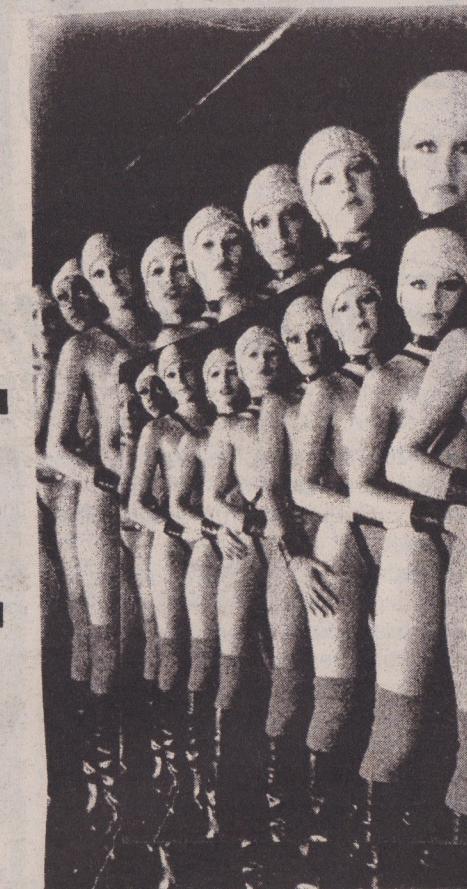
Adding some drama to the scenario can provide many things: lessen other

These dramatic elements can really heat up a moment. Messing with outfits and identities and incorporating them into a sex scene can be so erotic. Beyond changing the physical location, adding new physicalities can heighten the reality and challenging nature of a scene. In my experience, I could get hot-tootie just by someone's outfit, so incorporating costume changes works wonders in the bedroom. Just imagine what the addition of a mermaid outfit, a map, and kitchen utensils could add to your sex life.

Of course all these examples are not

Like dismantling racism, sex can push us beyond comfort zones bequeathed to us by the dominant culture.

social/psycho/dramas that folks tend to drum up when the issue of sex arises, keep things interesting and creative, help explore different identities, help approach taboo subject matters, and be healing from past traumas, just to name a few. I notice that sometimes we get stuck in sex roles or sex acts. I encourage myself and others to not get stuck in roles like butch or femme or top or bottom or daddy or slave. I think those roles are awesome, but anything gets boring if not tweaked or switched up from time to time. It is very easy to stick with what we're good at or cling to a role or identity out of habit or just plain comfort. Role-play can be a great way to



experiment with different wetnesses and see what works best for their bodies. I imagine the world would be a more joyous place if that happened. Slip it in.

Pushing Self Limits

Like dismantling racism, sex can push us

etc. This nauseating wave of puritanism and conservative values hangs in the air, almost unnoticed like the stale salty grease cloud present when passing a McDonald's. Subtle, toxic, bland, unhealthy, normative. So when I heard *Slingshot* wanted an article on how to have great sex, I thought, "Hell, let's queer it up and discuss perverting this political culture...time to fuck shit up- literally." I have a disclaimer, which is: These are merely my opinions and results of my experiences that are subject to change. If my experience doesn't work for you, please feel free to ignore and move on with your life.

And another thing, for clarity's sake, I am not discussing relationship models here: polyamory, monogamy or non, multi-fidelity, self-sexing, sleeping around, etc. Who we do it with and how we negotiate these relationships is indeed a part of having great sex, don't get me wrong. These preferences evolve and fluctuate. The intricacies are limitless and differ based on individual experiences. Therefore, discovering which models work for us, who we are attracted to, how we show it and how often, are personal choices I'd rather keep distinct from the issues I am about to go off on.

Okay, Sex. Comfort in one's skin and sexuality, consent and self-care are an essential backdrop to this discussion. For me there is no way to have freeing sex if I am not actively checking in with myself and whoever I am having sex with about emotional and physical comfort and openness. If folks are shutting down, going on to the ceiling, disassociating or not that into it, then how the fuck can it be any good? Knowing what one wants is not easy, as we are taught very boring and limited sexualities in this culture. Part of what can make sex so revolutionary is discovering what it is we like and pushing ourselves (consensually of course) to and beyond our limits.

Here is where I go into 5 components that enhance my sex life. Hopefully this information is useful or at least entertaining. Some elements I have recently noted as being helpful to my sex life are laughter, role-play, gender fucking, lube, and physical boundary pushing.

Laughter

I laugh a lot during sex. Solo laughing is a recent addition to my sex life. It can be diverse; from a coy giggle, to a belly laugh, to laughing at myself at an awkward moment or just as a way to communicate joy. Oftentimes,

Role- Play

Adding some drama to the scenario can provide many things: lessen other

a map, and kitchen utensils could add to your sex life.

Of course all these examples are not

Like dismantling racism, sex can push us beyond comfort zones bequeathed to us by the dominant culture.

social/psycho/dramas that folks tend to drum up when the issue of sex arises, keep things interesting and creative, help explore different identities, help approach taboo subject matters, and be healing from past traumas, just to name a few. I notice that sometimes we get stuck in sex roles or sex acts. I encourage myself and others to not get stuck in roles like butch or femme or top or bottom or daddy or slave. I think those roles are awesome, but anything gets boring if not tweaked or switched up from time to time. It is very easy to stick with what we're good at or cling to a role or identity out of habit or just plain comfort. Role-play can be a great way to challenge one's rigidities and discover hidden perversions in a safe context.

Switching up roles is exactly as it sounds; availing oneself the opportunity to receive when previously being the provider; taking turns sucking and being sucked, biting and being bitten, slapping and being slapped, holding and being held, fucking and being fucked, you get the picture.

Story telling is another version of role-play. For me this includes setting up characters in a setting with a plot. It can get intricate with scripts or songs, heck even a dance routine. The important thing here is that everyone is okay with where the story goes. Also these scenarios can leave the bedroom and social norms. Here is where many taboos can be explored; intergenerational sex, and inter-species sex (you'll be the farmer and I'll be the



mutually exclusive and often get mixed up altogether; outfits, role-playing, story telling, reading aloud and whatever else you can think of, the more the merrier, sillier, nastier.

Gender-queerness

One element of my sex-life, with or without other people involved is fluid gender. As someone who travels many gender identities beyond anatomy in my day-to-day life, it follows suit that my sex life is a stage for non-binary- gendered bodies. When re-learning to have sex, I switched my focus away from stereotypical notions of genitals and genital contact. (Boys get blowjobs and girls get finger banged.) There is so much to play with and destroy, pervert, re-name. One lesson I have learned is that it is respectful and sexy as hell to ask people what they call their body parts and how they want them touched. When opening-up what we consider erogenous zones, more conversations about re-imagining bodies, gender, society may become possible. Anybody can get a blowjob anywhere on their body and



experiment with different wetnesses and see what works best for their bodies. I imagine the world would be a more joyous place if that happened. Slip it in.

Pushing Self Limits

Like dismantling racism, sex can push us beyond comfort zones bequeathed to us by the dominant culture. Many things we are taught are dangerous or scary, nasty or off-limits can be explored safely in a sexual situation. Personal stories of abuse, neglect, self-hatred and other of the myriad of private struggles surface in this practice and what is good limit pushing for me may not at all be good for you in your process. It is important to go at our own paces with boundary pushing and not go places inappropriate to our own experiences. Many issues can come out with consensual boundary pushing; power dynamics, stereotypes to be de-bunked, pain thresholds, ideological differences, and the concept of the comfort zone in general. As a person who challenges norms, I find sex a wonderful place to keep pushing myself beyond the comfort zones of society at large. Recently one of the boundaries I have been pushing for myself has been the issue of cutting. In an extended knife-play scene, I asked to be cut. Health, safety, safer sex and self care strategies were well established and adhered to in this scene. Since then I have explored the many levels of emotions, trust healing and comfort in my sexual self through this and other forms of personal boundary pushing in bed. I have hope that if we hold enough space for each other to expand these concepts, then maybe other



sexuality, consent and self-care are an essential backdrop to this discussion. For me there is no way to have free sex if I am not actively checking in with myself and whoever I am having sex with about emotional and physical comfort and openness. If folks are shutting down, going on to the ceiling, disassociating or not that into it, then how the fuck can it be any good? Knowing what one wants is not easy, as we are taught very boring and limited sexualities in this culture. Part of what can make sex so revolutionary is discovering what it is we like and pushing ourselves (consensually of course) to and beyond our limits.

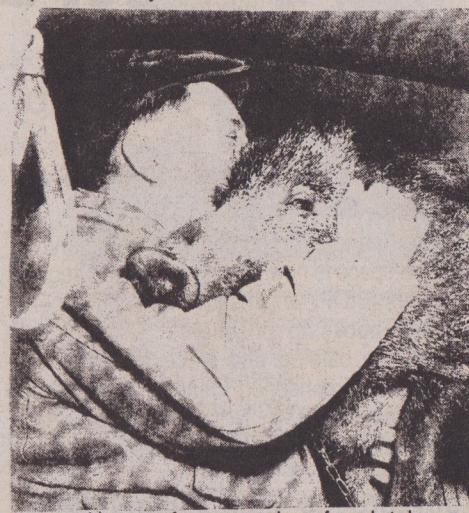
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Laughter

I laugh a lot during sex. Solo laughing is a recent addition to my sex life. It can be diverse; from a coy giggle, to a belly laugh, to laughing at myself at an awkward moment or just as a way to communicate joy. Oftentimes, new lovers are curious about why I am laughing. Am I laughing at them? What sparked that chuckle? My answers vary as what inspires a giggle really depends on what is going on. However, I always explain that I am not laughing at them and try to relieve any insecurities or anxieties my gaiety may bring up. Usually this is well received and may even inspire peals of relieved laughter. Plus laughter is contagious and can put folks more at ease. One may laugh solo or in unison w/ sex partners. For me, laughing with lovers during sex is different than spontaneously laughing as a release. Sometimes I laugh to relieve tension—not get so caught up in my "performance". You know, seeming slick and skilled and oh so sexy. I mean honestly, what we are doing is goofy and silly and in fact hilarious. There is a myth that we should act a certain way during sex; virile, coquettish, animalistic, blasé, submissive, dominant, alluring etc. Laughing helps me hush those "you should be fill in the blank" voices. It neutralizes the tape-loops that play in my head, freeing me from self-imposed expectations of hotness based on media-inspired

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livestock) are a few examples of such taboos. These games could challenge political and social norms in positive and smarty-panted ways. For me it is important to remember that this is fantasy and that these role-play scenarios set up safe consensual spaces for folks to go there consciously, critically, humbly and with an open mind.

Reading aloud can also be a fun way to explore roles. Reading stories, erotic or not aloud can absolutely add a certain something to the moment. It gives an added activity and focus and brings in more opportunity for fetishes. For example, reading an entomology dictionary, political theory, or porn to each other adds a certain geeky quality that can really do it for folks.

And finally drag, props and outfit sex.



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Lube

Why is it so revolutionary to be wet? Because we get taught how to have sex wrong. It is astounding to me how many people have sex without lubrication. The orifice does not matter, what matters is that it feels good. As a youngster, figuring out what to do with my parts, I was unaware of adding moisture. In my opinion, everything is better with lubrication, lots of it. As I get older, my commitment to maintain moisture increases and that is why lube made it to this list. Different folks like different qualities of lube, from sticky to slippery, gummy to smooth, chunky to creamy even. I would love for more people to

be dangerous or scary, nasty or off-limits can be explored safely in a sexual situation. Personal stories of abuse, neglect, self-hatred and other of the myriad of private struggles surface in this practice and what is good limit pushing for me may not at all be good for you in your process. It is important to go at our own paces with boundary pushing and not go places inappropriate to our own experiences. Many issues can come out with consensual boundary pushing; power dynamics, stereotypes to be de-bunked, pain thresholds, ideological differences, and the concept of the comfort zone in general. As a person who challenges norms, I find sex a wonderful place to keep pushing myself beyond the comfort zones of society at large. Recently one of the boundaries I have been pushing for myself has been the issue of cutting. In an extended knife-play scene, I asked to be cut. Health, safety, safer sex and self care strategies were well established and adhered to in this scene. Since then I have explored the many levels of emotions, trust healing and comfort in my sexual self through this and other forms of personal boundary pushing in bed. I have hope that if we hold enough space for each other to expand these concepts, then maybe other forms of social and environmental change can manifest.

Este articulo en
español en página 9



Jeff Free Luers x

5 yrs
down,
17 to go?
FUCK that!!

June 2005 marks the five-year anniversary of the imprisonment of our friend and comrade: Oregon environmental political prisoner, Jeff "Free" Luers. Jeff was sentenced to more than 22 years in prison for burning three Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) at a car dealership in Eugene, Oregon, and on trumped up attempted arson charges. Jeff set fire to SUVs to call attention to climate change and to protest oil wars and environmental destruction. Jeff was motivated by compassion and a desire to protect life, not to harm it.

On June 12, 2004, social and environmental activists in the US, Canada, England, Scotland, Norway, Finland, Australia, and Russia participated in an "International Day of Action" with Jeff by organizing non-violent protests and community events to show their support for him and their disgust for his cruel sentence. The FBI responded by creating a

by annie d

The 40th Street Warehouse
b. February 6, 1996
d. February 1, 2005

The 40th Street Warehouse was started nine years ago, in Oakland, California, with hopes of creating a space to work on art and music and life in a town of cramped options.

The first shows were artsy and small—noise music and twisted visuals—stark, one could say. Over the next few years, the character of the place shifted to a loosely-conceived crust scene and later into a more politically-oriented DIY punk sort of world. With this came an increase in vision and organization, and as the venue became a Venue things kind of exploded. We began to rethink what the space meant to us, and decided that we wouldn't accommodate as many bigger bands, instead choosing to open up space for smaller or more fringe acts to find a home. Cabarets moved in, as did a wider range of musical sensibilities. Workshops happened and the first East Bay Skillshare found a partial home here.

Last year, well into the beginning of the end, some long-cooking pots began to boil over. For a few years the landlord had been talking of the theoretical day when she would kick us out to renovate the Warehouse and make it into live-work lofts. She had been waiting until the condos she'd built behind the building found tenants, and soon they did. It's unclear who, exactly, this time that someone

GoodBye 40th st Landlord EATS infamous Oakland Show Space

And here we are, evicted, the place about to be knocked to the ground. Nine years, maybe five hundred shows, upwards of 40 roommates and a looming cloud of mostly pleasant memories later. In a just world, places like 40th would not be part of the dirty cycle of gentrification—not participants or sufferers, of which we are both—and homes like this one, here, could last forever. Now what we get to do is learn our lessons and take them with us as we start again.

There's important models to be built from the ruins and memories of places like this and I don't want to let that slip away. I feel that there's clear lessons—knowledge built on trial, failure, and time—lessons about the many meanings, facets, and depths of the ubiquitous word "community" and the worth and necessity of semi-sacred gathering halls like this one. Something to take with us as we struggle to construct healing realities within the cultures of degradation we all endure and perpetuate and reside in. For me there's a lesson in having to take it with me or watch it die.

379

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Since the June 12, 2004 Day of Action, support for Jeff has continued to grow. People all over the world see Jeff as a political prisoner and acknowledge that his sentence is meant as a deterrent to increased resistance to oppression. Overall, however, the political climate in the US and abroad has become more corrupt and repressive. The conditions are ripe to expose the hypocrisy of the system. Opposition and dissent is needed now more than ever.

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Last year, well into the beginning of the end, some long-cooking pots began to boil over. For a few years the landlord had been talking of the theoretical day when she would kick us out to renovate the Warehouse and make it into live-work lofts. She had been waiting until the condos she'd built behind the building found tenants, and soon they did. It's unclear who, but it was around this time that someone began calling the police on our shows. For weeks in a row we had to deal with police presence (this after maybe two calls a year for the past many), culminating in a serious blow to the warehouse that forced us to stop all shows, when the police came one afternoon to have a talk. The space was just in slumber until we regrouped, we thought—but that was before an eviction notice came.

infamousBar 12 ShowSpace

The warehouse was the first place I really made my home and the place that taught me how to find home in any place. It has been a converging web of many different communities here in the bay, and amidst its limitations and its boundaries (cultural, musical, social, class, and on and on) I feel like it's very clearly not just me who's grown in big ways through the plurality of the changing faces that this place has borne.

I hope I'm not just aggrandizing this place through my milky haze of nostalgia (because I've got one, for sure). I just mean to recognize the many ways in which this space—a place of growth and of stagnancy, careless gestures and sincere connections at once, and a waystation for many—has given a stronger sense of home to those who've known it, like a tiny anchor to secure you just enough that you can handle the fact that you're still floating away.



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During the weekend of June 10-12th, 2005, social justice activists from across the world are called upon again to organize and show their outrage about Jeff's imprisonment and



the continued abuse and isolation of dissident prisoners across the globe. State repression is meant as a deterrent to social and environmental movements all over. Jeff received a sentence of over 22 years for an action that harmed no one except for the pocketbook of a local car dealer. Typical arson charges in Oregon result in sentences less than five years.

There is no central organizing body or group to check in with but the Jeff Luers Support Network can help by providing you with flyers, graphics, and merchandise such as videos, zines and stickers about Jeff and allies in the struggle.

Read more about Jeff's case at www.freefreenow.org. East Coast contact: Friends of Jeff 'Free' Luers freefreenow@mutualaid.org; West Coast Contacts: Break the Chains breakthechains02@yahoo.com; San Francisco Jeffrey Luers Support Network rejeffreyluers@resist.ca

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Compiled by PB Floyd

Alternative Press Center - Baltimore

The APC has "a really cool library full of leftist publications, and we publish a quarterly reference guide to independent media, the Alternative Press Index" according to Caroline. Visit them at 1446 Gorsuch Avenue, Baltimore MD 21218, 410-243-2471.

The Planet Infoshop - Ann Arbor, MI

They just opened and feature sweatshop-free clothes, books, CDs, free internet, zines, etc. They also feature and promote local artists and musicians. They're open Monday-Saturday 10-10 and Sunday 12-8. 1112 1/2 S. University, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, 734-994-4545.

The Third Space - Norman, Oklahoma

Finally, a social space, safe place, and organizing venue for anarchists, radicals and other activists in central Oklahoma! They feature over 800 books: radical, revolutionary, and progressive social theory, philosophy, history, race, class and gender studies, art, literature and DIY manuals/guides. They have a collection of over one thousand zines & periodicals, as well as a small collection of audio and video material. Plus a public internet terminal. Open Sat/Sun 1-5 pm and Tues. 7-11 pm. Just a block from the University of Oklahoma—look for the rainbow flag! Drop in at 813 College Ave A, Norman, OK 73069,

Reflections Mirror-Image Bookstore - Portland, OR

This re-opened Afrocentric and community-oriented space is now hosting Books to Oregon Prisoners (BtOP) which sends new, publisher-donated books to prisoners. Drop by to browse the catalog and place an order on behalf of an imprisoned friend or to help out with mailing. 330 North Killingsworth, Portland, bookstooregonprisoners@gmail.com 503-288-9003.

Aboveground Zine Library, New Orleans

They have moved and now are located at the Iron Rail bookstore—511 Marigny St. (@ Decatur St.) in New Orleans. Open from 1-7pm everyday. Zine donations are always welcome; mail them to: Aboveground Zine Library, 6810 Bellaire Dr., New Orleans, LA 70124, 504-944-0366.

Manila-Infoshop Projekt - Philippines

After having a space that got evicted in 2002, activists in the Philippines are raising funds and gathering materials (literature, videos, audio) to create an Infoshop. "The aim of Manila Infoshop Projekt is to create a space that would cater to the needs of various kolektives/autonomous groups and individuals. In our experience of surviving in span of almost

4 years, we kept on doing activities and actions without much documentation because most of the times we lack the resources (camera/film). Instead we tried our best to release statements and create some banners, streamers and flags that are usually recycled. We would like to have a space where we may conduct meetings, workshops, indoor activities, propaganda making, Food Not Bombs kitchen, library, etc." They're trying to raise \$600 to pay for house rental (4 months), make bookshelves and buy second hand computers. You can send them money or printed materials. To contact them, visit: www.oathmeal.proxmira.com, manila.indymedia.org, www.gaizao.org.

MORE mistakes and corrections from the 2005 Organizer!

- The Asheville Community Resource Center address is wrong—they still exist but they no longer have a physical space. The mailing address is correct.
- The address listed for the Madison community coop (Wisconsin) is wrong - the correct address is 1202 Williamson St. Suite C Madison, WI 53703. The phone # listed is correct, however.
- The phone # for the Kresge coop in Santa Cruz, Calif is wrong by 1 number - the correct # is 831-425-1506.

mama said rock you out

by Mother Nature (www.placentamusic.com)



**"Mamalition-- we are the peace makers
Mamalition-- we are the greed stoppers
Mamalition--we are the war enders.
Mamalition--and we will save the world..."**

Mom Band

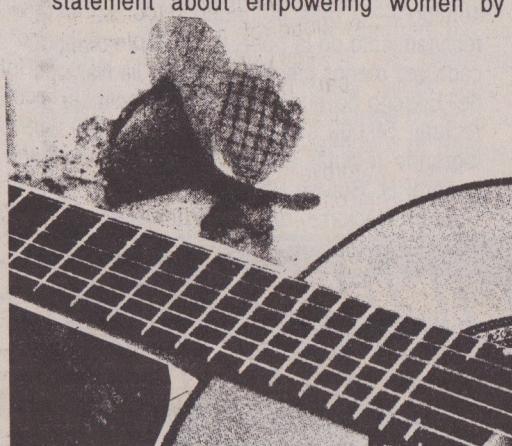
I didn't mean to do it. It was the summer of 2001. I had just gotten my arm out of a cast, my ex had quit his job and moved away from Oakland to get out of supporting our children. I was on disability, and was living with my two daughters in a small room in someone else's house. In my head, I could hear Johnny Rotten, prescient little twerp, screeching "no future, no future, no future for you!" There was no music that I could find which spoke to my particular circumstance, despite the fact that being a struggling single mother in this country is hardly a rarity. I needed to speak out and be heard, and I knew the music industry wasn't about to start spewing out single mom anthems. I had a crappy acoustic guitar. I had never written a song. So, I started a punk band. Like many other punks, I was pissed off, and I wanted to do something about it. I'm over 30, with a background in classical music, moving into a genre dominated by young men, so, naturally, I looked for other moms to work with.

The first incarnation of the band (The Lactators) started with lyrics about problems

the dough". I didn't want to have to be "in the closet" about being a mother rocker. And, at this point in my life, I feel like I have done more than enough to prove myself as someone to be taken seriously. A mother, an activist, an educator--I don't have to act like an adolescent boy in order to rock.

Rocker-Mom

The lead guitar player of the band, Kjetset, suggested we re-embrace our identities as mothers and rockers. Mothering is what we do, it's who we are, it's one thing that permeates our entire lives. Not to acknowledge that we are moms plays into the old boys' network. We had already embraced a band mission statement about empowering women by



example. Our songs were moving toward strong mother-related themes. Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, by bassist The Down-Low: "Beware of the women with nothing to lose..." Mother Nature: "I didn't bear my children to be your fallen angels...Mother Nature just don't play that!", Too Much Woman: "I've got two kids, two jobs, three cats, one dog and two rats. I can program in Unix and change my own tire,

I didn't mean to do it. I didn't mean to be in a movement.

I didn't exactly mean to be a mother, either, to be perfectly honest. It was kind of, "Oops! You're pregnant!" but I took on the role of mom with gusto (there's a reason my band mates have dubbed me Mother Nature, as in, "don't fuck with"). So, if someone from People magazine, or whatever, calls what I do a movement, then I'm perfectly willing to run with that idea. And I'm going to define it, dammit. I certainly have worked hard my whole spiked-hair-stretched-earlobes-leather-wearing life to avoid being deemed cute or whiny.

Feminism Rocks

The songwriting platform that mother rockers come from is protest songs, hillbilly laments about poverty and hardship, punk songs about the corruption of government—in contrast to big sleazy production numbers aimed at industry moguls. Far from having illusions about becoming rock stars, mother rockers write songs about events in their daily lives. What mom rockers have in common is the framework of freedom laid down by feminists, and the impetus of the current shape of feminism. For the sake of argument, if

"Take the strength of a mother in her prime and apply it to a drum set, amplified rock guitars and a screaming lead singer and I'd say you have the voice of a very powerful movement, all right."

feminism was initially about being able to play



"I want more mothers to make loud, obnoxious, powerful, screamin', thrashin', drivin' rock music."

Mother Rocker

Mother Rockers are creating music that fills the gap for moms, women, and basically anyone who can't stand the current industry treatment of women. We show our children what it takes to be committed musicians, to go against the grain, to eschew traditional, safe-and-tame images of motherhood in favor of speaking from our own reality. We show other women that motherhood is not the end of coolness, and we show men that being strong women and mothers does not equate with man-hating. We show mothers that there is a voice for the job we do, and we show how owning the

power of motherhood--and amplifying it--earns us even more respect.

I know that standing on a stage with a guitar in my hands, speaking about anything and

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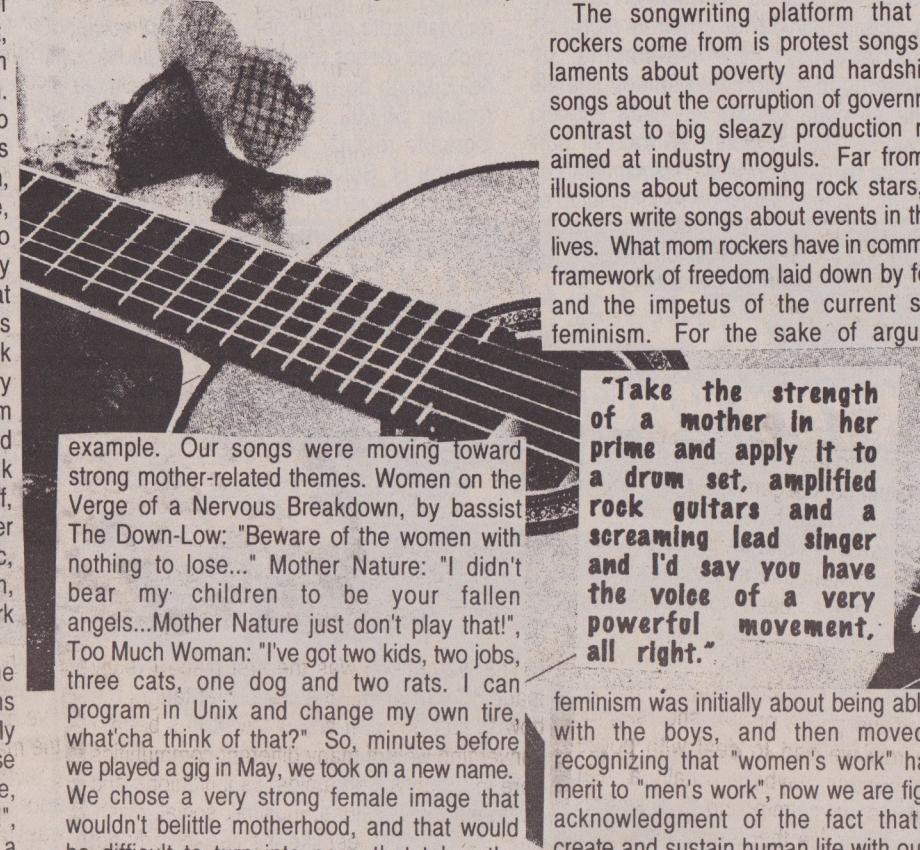
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The first incarnation of the band (The Lactators) started with lyrics about problems moms face: The Sleep Deprivation Blues: "My baby woke me up at 4, he just wanted to nurse some more; I'm so tired and my tits are sore, 'cuz he never stopped from the time before!", and there was a decided bent toward being a novelty act or a joke band. However, whining about supposed maternal martyrdom degrades the power inherent in motherhood, so I left the band to sing in a mostly-guys, political, old school hardcore punk band.

Gender

As much as I was digging hardcore punk, I missed working with women. When the opportunity arose to play again with some of the old Lactators, I was quick to join in. We chose a non-gender-specific name (Junkbox). It's unfortunate that the music I love is marked by ingrained sexism. Women rockers are not immune from the "you__ like a girl"

mothers and rockers. Mothering is what we do, it's who we are, it's one thing that permeates our entire lives. Not to acknowledge that we are moms plays into the old boys' network. We had already embraced a band mission statement about empowering women by



example. Our songs were moving toward strong mother-related themes. Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, by bassist The Down-Low: "Beware of the women with nothing to lose..." Mother Nature: "I didn't bear my children to be your fallen angels...Mother Nature just don't play that!", Too Much Woman: "I've got two kids, two jobs, three cats, one dog and two rats. I can program in Unix and change my own tire, what'cha think of that?" So, minutes before we played a gig in May, we took on a new name. We chose a very strong female image that wouldn't belittle motherhood, and that would be difficult to turn into porn--that takes the essence of what it means to be a woman and a mother, and shoves it in your face. Placenta!

A Movement

Two days later, a strange thing happened. We were contacted by the Wall Street Journal for a story about mother rockers. Apparently, during the past few years, in New York, Dallas, Detroit, and other cities in this country (and beyond, probably), other moms have had the same idea of forming all-mom bands. As early as 1998, Joy Rose formed a band called Housewives on Prozac. In 2001, a documentary was filmed about Suzie Riddle's band, Frump, which then inspired her friend Paige Gilbert to start a band, the Mydols. Other bands have received coverage, but most of these bands had only passing knowledge of each other.

The mainstream media has decided that all of these mother rockers are part of a movement. A movement that at best, draws

with that idea. And I'm going to define it, dammit. I certainly have worked hard my whole spiked-hair-stretched-earlobes-leather-wearing life to avoid being deemed cute or whiny.

Feminism Rocks

The songwriting platform that mother rockers come from is protest songs, hillbilly laments about poverty and hardship, punk songs about the corruption of government--in contrast to big sleazy production numbers aimed at industry moguls. Far from having illusions about becoming rock stars, mother rockers write songs about events in their daily lives. What mom rockers have in common is the framework of freedom laid down by feminists, and the impetus of the current shape of feminism. For the sake of argument, if

"Take the strength of a mother in her prime and apply it to a drum set, amplified rock guitars and a screaming lead singer and I'd say you have the voice of a very powerful movement, all right."

feminism was initially about being able to play with the boys, and then moved on to recognizing that "women's work" has equal merit to "men's work", now we are fighting for acknowledgment of the fact that women create and sustain human life with our bodies, and that mothers are fucking powerful because the Universe made it that way. Take the strength of a mother in her prime and apply it to a drum set, amplified rock guitars and a screaming lead singer and I'd say you have the voice of a very powerful movement, all right.

Fronting a band that performs political, feminist rock songs is a conscious part of my parenting. My parents are musicians. My mother strove for feminist ideals in her parenting. In turn, my activism is something my kids have been a part of since they were in the womb. I don't artificially separate my "real" life from my life as a mother. I do buffer what my kids get exposed to, and I do have continuous dialogue with them about life, media, politics, human behavior (including my own, good and bad), but I'm not a different person when I'm parenting than when I'm dealing with adults. Being a mother rocker is

"I want more mothers to make loud, obnoxious, powerful, screamin', thrashin', drivin' rock music."

Mother Rocker

Mother Rockers are creating music that fills the gap for moms, women, and basically anyone who can't stand the current industry treatment of women. We show our children what it takes to be committed musicians, to go against the grain, to eschew traditional, safe-and-tame images of motherhood in favor of speaking from our own reality. We show other women that motherhood is not the end of coolness, and we show men that being strong women and mothers does not equate with man-hating. We show mothers that there is a voice for the job we do, and we show how owning the

power of motherhood--and amplifying it--earns us even more respect.

I know that standing on a stage with a guitar in my hands, speaking about anything and everything I chose to, coming from the place of being a mother, threatens the system which specifies that moms remain perennial doormats, ever sacrificing, always soft and caring, always "there". There, for what? To be uncomplaining consumers, to devote our energies to petty PTA conflicts, to raise our children to conform to school rules and become mindless workerbees? The system wants mothers to be extensions of anti-choice philosophy. Uteruses, whose greatest accomplishment in life is to create more fodder for the capitalist machine. Mothers who make choices more significant than cloth vs. plastic diapers, who are vocal about choosing, and who band together could easily bring about the downfall of the system.

It pisses me off that the mainstream press is trying to keep Mother Rockers "in our place" by completely ignoring our music or trivializing our message. It's a bizarre sleeping-with-the-enemy situation right now. We want more people to check us out, to hear our message, and the way that is happening right now is through exposure in the mainstream press. When we get interviewed, we focus on our

'cuz he never stopped from the time before!", and there was a decided bent toward being a novelty act or a joke band. However, whining about supposed maternal martyrdom degrades the power inherent in motherhood, so I left the band to sing in a mostly-guys, political, old school hardcore punk band.

Gender

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syndrome. This is not true of classical music. No-one ever said to me, "you orchestrate like a girl". Junkbox wanted to be judged from the quality of our rock-n-roll, not viewed from an "aww, mommies with guitars, how cute!" standpoint. The songs we started to write as Junkbox were more feminist, stronger, and more passionate. Poison Oak: "Pray to survive this, pray for enlightenment, pray for some guidance; I just smell the scent of dog and cigarettes--because you keep dicking me around.", Pimpin' Bitch: "Fuck love--give me

you a son, baby, bring female image that wouldn't belittle motherhood, and that would be difficult to turn into porn--that takes the essence of what it means to be a woman and a mother, and shoves it in your face. Placenta!

A Movement

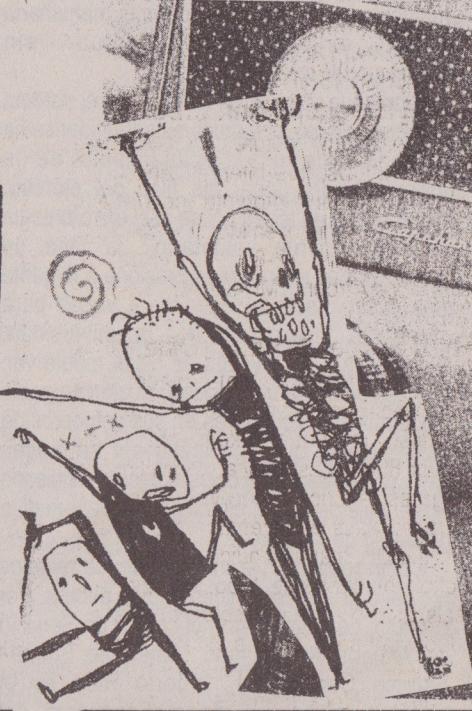
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The mainstream media has decided that all of these mother rockers are part of a movement. A movement that, at best, draws begrudging support from family, and, at worst, pits rock-n-roll novelty against the sacred trust of all-sacrificing nurturance of their children. A movement of whining moms, making music that reporters don't even bother to listen to or review. A very cute, not to be taken seriously movement.



acknowledgment of the fact that women create and sustain human life with our bodies, and that mothers are fucking powerful because the Universe made it that way. Take the strength of a mother in her prime and apply it to a drum set, amplified rock guitars and a screaming lead singer and I'd say you have the voice of a very powerful movement, all right.

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It pisses me off that the mainstream press is trying to keep Mother Rockers "in our place" by completely ignoring our music or trivializing our message. It's a bizarre sleeping-with-the-enemy situation right now. We want more people to check us out, to hear our message, and the way that is happening right now is through exposure in the mainstream press. When we get interviewed, we focus on our message. We know it'll still get twisted, cuz reporters have their angle, but we hope a little bit is creeping through. We think that the system is already falling apart, but quietly, quietly. We want moms, women, people to start owning their own power, and we hope to stand as examples of moms who are doing just that.

I don't want the industry to dictate what Mother Rockers are. I want more mothers to make loud, obnoxious, powerful, screamin', thrashin', drivin' rock music. I want more grassroots musicianship, taking the power away from the big 5 entertainment industry monsters. I want moms to speak about our own situations-- I want my band to be one of the least outspoken bands. I want the system to topple because moms take themselves, their work, and their own power seriously, and act from that position of very real power. A critical mass of mother rockers. This is a call to arms! Mothers, get out your amps and start rockin'! This is our music! This is our revolution!

Golpe al tendón de Aquiles de la guerra * reclutamiento militar

Por PB Floyd

Traducido por

Rebeca

Walker

Las elecciones recientes en Irak — y todas las imágenes y retórica televisivas para hacernos sentir bien sobre la libertad y democracia — no pueden cambiar el hecho de que el ejército estadounidense está empantanado en Irak, y no cuenta con una estrategia para salir. Es interesante recordar que Estados Unidos organizó las elecciones de 1967 en Vietnam del Sur, y a pesar de eso la guerra continuó durante 8 años. Hay más y más paralelos entre la guerra en Irak y la de Vietnam: puede que el ejército estadounidense sea el más poderoso del mundo, con fuerza abrumadora y mucha tecnología, pero en una guerrilla no hay cantidad de violencia o de muertes que pueda resultar en la victoria en contra de alguna población determinada. De hecho, se cree que la presencia de 150,000 soldados, le da vida y unidad a la insurgencia.

Aunque hay paralelos entre Vietnam e Irak, hay una gran diferencia que puede resultar ser en el tendón de Aquiles del régimen estadounidense, esto es, en esta ocasión no hay reclutamiento: el ejército es una fuerza compuesta "únicamente de voluntarios." Aquí en Estados Unidos, aquellos que están en contra de la maquinaria imperial de Estados Unidos, necesitan aprovechar esta debilidad para encontrar maneras de corroer el poder del ejército desde adentro, al privarlo de lo que más hambre tiene: hombres y mujeres estadounidenses frescos para llenar las bolsas de cadáveres.

Al igual que en Vietnam, las tropas estadounidenses que llegaron a Irak con la esperanza de "reconstruir" y "llevar

magníficamente no han tenido la inteligencia de romper la capacidad de Bush para pelear. Aunque la mayoría de la población no apoya la guerra (54%, de acuerdo a la encuesta de *Los Angeles Times* del 19 de enero), ésta continúa. Ultimadamente son las tropas las que tienen el poder de esta situación — necesitamos apoyar a nuestras tropas al apoyar su resistencia. Los estadounidenses están arriesgando sus vidas por nada: ¡es hora de que luchen!

Además para coperar con las tropas que ya están en el ejército, los activistas en Estados Unidos pueden ayudar al cortar la oferta de reclutas nuevos. La maquinaria de reclutamiento del ejército estadounidense funciona en cada pueblo, en cada escuela preparatoria (High School), en todo el país (vea la lista de estaciones de reclutamiento en página 14). La maquinaria de reclutamiento es

de más de 40%, las oficinas de reclutamiento del ejército en Puerto Rico reclutan más de 4 veces el número de personas que las oficinas basadas en el territorio continental, anualmente. La población negra también es reclutada de manera desproporcionada: 29.8% de soldados en la primera guerra del golfo eran negros, en contraste al 12% que representan respecto a la población estadounidense.

Pero con más de 1,400 soldados muertos y más de 10,000 heridos en una guerra sin sentido — y más muriendo cada día — el reclutamiento de la pobreza se está volviendo cada vez menos efectivo. La Guardia Nacional del Ejército no pudo cumplir con su meta de reclutar 56,000 soldados el año fiscal 2004, logrando reclutar a sólo 49,210. El teniente general H. Steven Blum, jefe del Buró de la Guardia Nacional, dijo el 26 de enero que la

pentágono se niega a dar información). Canadá está considerando dar refugio a muchos soldados estadounidenses que han renunciado a dar servicio en Irak.

Aún más, están comenzando a salir a la superficie reportes sobre la resistencia entre las tropas estadounidenses. El 13 de octubre del 2004, 19 soldados de La Guardia Nacional se negaron a obedecer la orden de manejar tanques de gasolina sin armadura a Bagdad (lo cual consideraron como "misión suicida"). Este fue el primer motín que se reporta en Irak y sólo salió a la luz pública porque los soldados llamaron a sus familias desde una carpeta de detención. Probablemente nunca sabremos sobre otros motines en Irak.

El apoyo de las tropas a las políticas subyacentes a la guerra también se han evaporado. En respuesta a la pregunta de *Stars and Stripes* "¿Qué tan importante consideras que es para Estados Unidos pelear en esta guerra?", el 31% dijo que tenía "poco valor" o "ningún valor en absoluto," mientras que el 48% respondió que era "valioso" o "muy valioso." El 35% respondió que "no era muy claro" o "no era claro en absoluto" por qué estaban en Irak.

Debido a la guerra, hay rumores cada vez mayores de que habrá un Reclutamiento Oficial (no sólo un Reclutamiento de la Pobreza) si Estados Unidos continúa su ocupación en Irak. Un reclutamiento puede ser aún más necesario si la administración de Bush planea invadir Irán, Siria y/o Corea del Norte en los próximos 4 años, como claramente desean. La posibilidad de un reclutamiento oficial, asusta, y con razón, a mucha gente en edad de reclutamiento a

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Hay muchas oportunidades para los oponentes en Estados Unidos al imperio estadounidense para cooperar con las tropas que están cada vez más escépticas sobre la guerra. Al fin y al cabo Vietnam no se pudo ganar porque las tropas se negaron a pelear — en lugar de eso, mataron a sus oficiales, desertaron, pidieron un estatus de Conscientious Objector, publicaron periódicos militares clandestinos, se fueron a huelga, o simplemente dejaron de luchar a través de un millón de pequeñas formas. La gente en casa ayudó como pudo — creando cafeterías antibélicas fuera de las bases, ofreciendo consejería sobre reclutamiento o pre-enlistamiento, asistiendo a los desertores en la clandestinidad y minando el apoyo local a la guerra.

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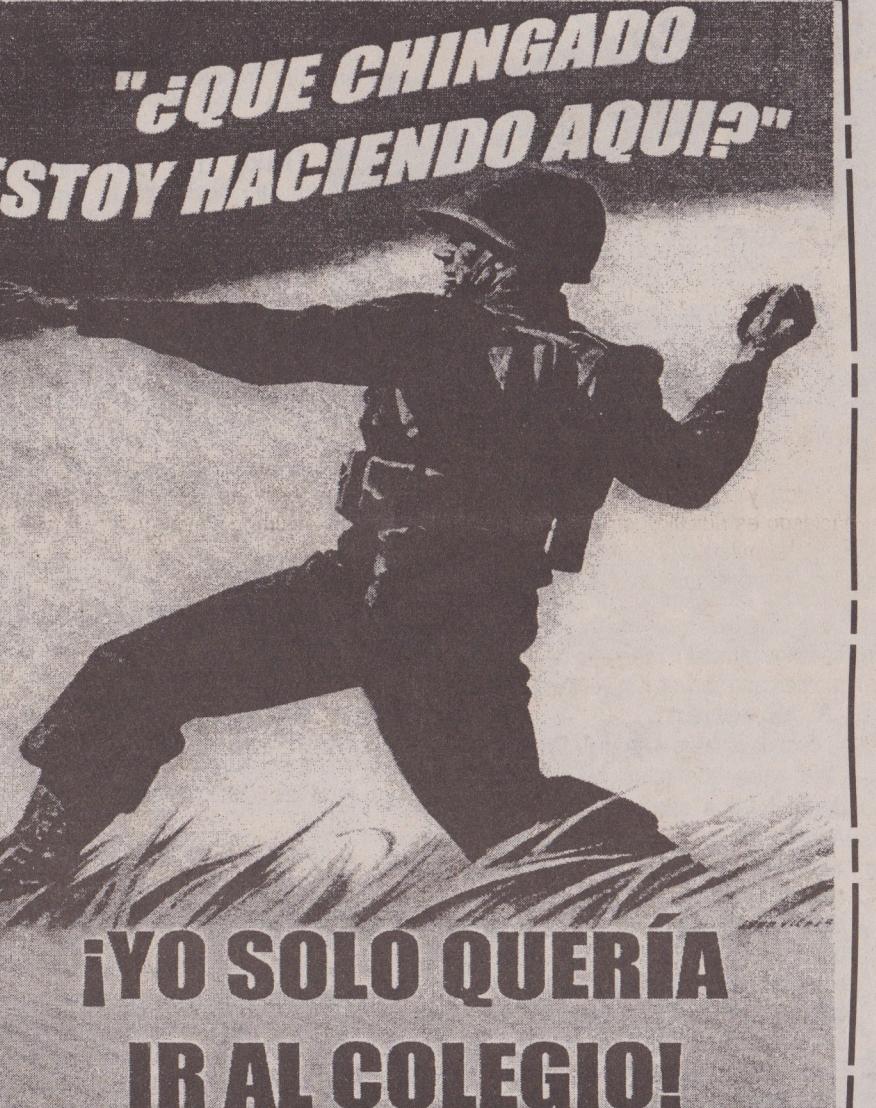
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Pero mirando más allá del factor miedo, si el ejército se ve forzado a reclutar soldados, esto podría ayudar a cristalizar la oposición a Bush y a sus guerras. La encuesta de *Los Angeles Times* del 19 de enero, encontró que sólo el 39% de los encuestados respondió que "la situación en Irak ameritaba ir a la guerra" y el 56% dijo que no. ¿Qué pasaría si todos los segmentos de la sociedad estadounidense (no sólo los pobres) tuvieran hijos e hijas en Irak o la posibilidad de estarlo? Si el reclutamiento voluntario disminuye y las tropas que regresan de Irak se niegan a re-enlistarse, Bush se queda con una crisis real: si intenta promulgar el Reclutamiento en el contexto de una guerra con tan poca popularidad, estaría poniendo en gran riesgo la estabilidad social doméstica.

Cuando vi la película sobre Weather Underground el año pasado, una frase se me quedó en la mente. Un hombre trató de explicar su estado mental al decir que por muchos años, cada día al despertarse lo primero que pensó fue que había una guerra, que la gente estaban siendo masacrada por nada, que el gobierno del lugar en donde vivía los estaba matando. Así



un presa fácil. Podemos, con acciones en las estaciones de reclutamiento del ejército en todo Estados Unidos, traer la guerra a casa y crear conexiones reales entre la guerra sin sentido en Irak y nuestras propias

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Un mes antes de la guerra, millones de personas en el mundo protestaron — pero Bush se aferró a su poder y mantuvo sus oídos cerrados. Como va avanzando la guerra necesitamos pasar de una estrategia de corto plazo a largo plazo. La asistencia masiva a rituales de protesta organizadas

español

¡YO SOLO QUERÍA IR AL COLEGIO!

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Desde que el gobierno terminó con el sistema de reclutamiento, el ejército estadounidense ha dependido de una "reclutamiento de la pobreza," para llenar las filas del ejército. Mientras que en teoría unirse al ejército es un acto "puramente voluntario," la falta de oportunidades económicas presiona a la gente más pobre hacia el ejército: a veces para conseguir dinero para ir a la universidad, mientras que los jóvenes de clase media van directamente a la universidad. El ejército gasta 2,500 millones de dólares en sus esfuerzos de reclutamiento que principalmente se dirigen hacia comunidades de bajos ingresos, vendiendo el mensaje de que el ejército es una alternativa para salir de la pobreza.

Como resultado, la mayoría de los reclutas proviene de las comunidades más pobres. Por ejemplo, de acuerdo con el comité de Servicio de Amigos Americanos (American Friends Service Committee), "Puerto Rico es el territorio número 1 de reclutamiento del ejército. Con una tasa de desempleo en la isla

español

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Stars & Stripes, periódico militar patrocinado por el gobierno, hizo una encuesta a 1,935 soldados en Irak durante agosto del 2003 para una serie de artículos publicados en octubre del 2003 y encontró que el 49% dijo que deseaban abandonar el ejército tan pronto como les fuera posible. Sólo el 18% dijo que "era muy probable" que se quedaran. El 55% de la reserva de La Guardia Nacional encuestada dijo que era "improbable" o "muy improbable" que se reenlistaran. Desde que apareció el artículo el ejército ha mantenido silencio sobre otras encuestas que puedan contradecir la versión de la realidad oficial de Bush.

Una manera en que el ejército ha tratado de mantener la fuerza de las tropas ha sido creando órdenes de "Stop loss," que impiden que los soldados abandonen el ejército cuando expiran sus contratos. Algunos soldados han llamado a las órdenes de "Stop loss," "reclutamiento por la puerta trasera."

Se estima que la tasa de deserción de la guerra o AWOL está entre 600 y 5,500 (el

español

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Y los últimos meses, me he estado levantando en el mismo estado. ¿Qué puedo hacer, y qué voy a hacer hoy para parar esta guerra? Parar esta guerra en particular, no sólo concierne a Irak, es sobre la gente que vive en Estados Unidos unida al mundo en contra del imperio de Estados Unidos y que busca la manera de poder sacar, del hecho de que estamos aquí, en el estómago de la bestia, la máxima ventaja. Incluso si Estados Unidos comienza a retirar sus tropas de Irak, tenemos que asumir que Estados Unidos desea reagruparlas para invadir algún otro lugar.

Me gusta la idea de acosar las estaciones militares de reclutamiento en todo el país porque cada pueblo y ciudad tiene una y no se necesita un gran presupuesto o una gran protesta organizada por ANSWER, o nada, para ir y hacerles la vida de cuadritos. Puedes escoger un horario fijo (vamos a decir, cada sábado) y hacer una demostración con

Continuado en pg 16
español

••• español ••• español ••• Consejo caliente para disfutar y radicalizar el sexo

Por: Socket

He tenido mucho sexo últimamente. ¿Pero por qué estoy compartiendo esta información contigo de esa manera? En este contexto político e histórico, el buen sexo puede ser bastante subversivo, expansivo y una manera radical de desmantelar socializaciones y de crear alternativas a la cultura convencional. Más y más los morales de la derecha cristiana están penetrando la cultura predominante. Mira por ejemplo la moda, las precauciones de seguridad, lo que llaman educación, la diversión, etc. Esta onda nausante del puritanismo y valores conservativos flota en el aire, casi desapercibidos como la nube salada y grasosa presente cuando uno pasa un McDonald's, sutil, tóxico, soso e insalubre. Entonces, cuando yo escuché que Slingshot quería un artículo de cómo tener buen sexo. Pensé—“vamos a darle sabor y hablar de pervertir esta cultura política...es hora de chingarle — literalmente.” Tengo una advertencia: estas son nada más mis opiniones y los resultados de mis experiencias y se pueden cambiar. Si mi experiencia no te dice nada, favor de sentirte libre de ignorarla y seguir con tu vida.

Y pues otra cosa para quedar claro, no estoy hablando de modelos de relaciones: poligamia, monogamia, multi-fidelidad, masturbación, promiscuidad, etcétera. Con quien lo hacemos y como negociamos estas relaciones es ciertamente parte de tener buen sexo, no digo que no. Pero estas preferencias evolucionan y fluctúan. Los intrincados son ilimitados y dependen de la experiencia individual. Por lo tanto, descubriendo cuales modelos funcionan para nosotros, quien nos atrae, como lo demostramos y cuanto, son decisiones personales que prefiero dejar separadas de lo que voy a hablar ahora.



parte de ellos. Además, la risa es contagiosa y puede contribuir a la relajación. Uno puede reírse solo o junto con su amante. Para mí, reírme con mis amantes durante el sexo es distinto de reírme espontáneamente como expresión de alivio. A veces, me río para liberarme de la tensión y no poner demasiada atención a mi presentación — parecer sueve, habiloso y muy sexy. De hecho, lo que estamos

se hace aburrido si no lo cambias de vez en cuando. Es muy fácil hacer lo que hacemos bien o clavarnos en roles o identidades de hábito o comodidad. Jugar roles puede ser una buena manera de desafiar los costumbres y descubrir perversiones ocultas en un contexto cómodo y seguro.

Intercambiar los roles es exactamente como sueña: dejarse recibir cuando, antes daba

Traducido por: Cassandra y Ursula K.

al momento. Da otra actividad y enfoque y trae más oportunidades para los fetiches. Por ejemplo, leerse un diccionario de entomología, teoría política o pornografía añade cierta calidad necia que puede exitarle mucho.

Y finalmente tranvestirse, accesorios y el sexo de disfras pueden ayudar a calentarse el momento. Jugar con disfrases e identidades y incorporarlos a una escena sexual puede ser muy erótico. Más alla de cambiar la locación física, añadir nuevos physicalidades puede enriquecer la realidad y índole desafiando de una escena. En mi experiencia, se me puede calentar mucho ver el disfras de alguien, entonces incorporar cambios de disfras hace milagros en la cámara. Imagínate, como ser la adición de un disfras de sirena, un mapa, o un utensilio de cocina puede enriquecer tu vida sexual.

Claro que todos estos ejemplos no son mutualmente exclusivos y muchas veces se mezclan todos juntos; poner disfrases, jugar roles, contar historias, leer en voz alta y cualquier otra cosa que puedes imaginar, lo mas alegre, ridículo, obsceno.

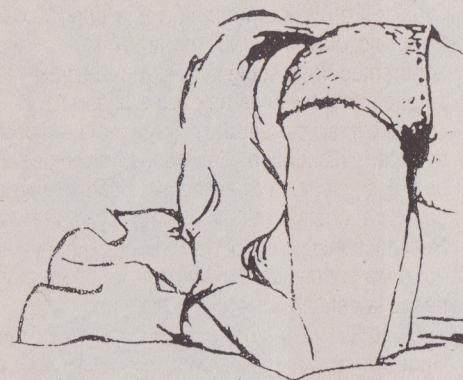
Jodiendo con el género

Un elemento de mi vida sexual, con o sin otra gente involucrada es el género fluido. Como soy una persona quien viaja a través muchas identidades de género en mi vida diaria, tengo sentido que mi vida sexual es un escenario para cuerpos con género cuales no son binarios. Mientras aprender de nuevo a tener el sexo, cambié mi foco de las ideas estereotípicas de genitales y el contacto genital. (Los chabos reciben chupadas y las chabas son cogidas con los dedos.) Hay tanto para jugar, destruir, pervertir, renombrar. He aprendido que es muy respetuosa y sexy preguntar a alguien

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Ok, el sexo. Sentirse cómodo en su propia piel, con su sexualidad, el consentimiento y el cuidado personal son partes esenciales a esta discusión. Para mí no hay manera de tener un sexo libre si no estoy activamente verificando la comodidad y libertad física y emocional de yo mismo y de la otra persona. ¿Si una de estas personas no está presente, está desasociada o



no lo está disfrutando, entonces como la puedo chingar bien? Saber lo que uno quiere no es nada fácil debido a que nos enseñan una sexualidad limitada y aburrida en esta cultura. Parte de lo que hace que el sexo sea revolucionario es descubrir lo que nos guste y superar (con consentimiento) nuestros límites.

Ahora les voy a dar los cinco ingredientes que han mejorado mi vida sexual. Qúíjal que esta

animalístico, hastiado, submisivo, dominante, como tentador, etc. La risa ayuda a callar estas—“debes ser así o así” voces en mi mente. Y neutraliza los pensamientos repetitivos liberándome de las expectativas autoimpuestas de lo “sexy”, basadas en fuentes inspiradas por los medios de comunicación. También, reírse es una buena forma de expresar las sensaciones. El ruido durante el sexo en mi opinión es una adición



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parte de ellos. Además, la risa es contagiosa y puede contribuir a la relajación. Uno puede reírse solo o junto con su amante. Para mí, reírme con mis amantes durante el sexo es distinto de reírme espontáneamente como expresión de alivio. A veces, me río para liberarme de la tensión y no poner demasiada atención a mi presentación — parecer sueve, habilidoso y muy sexy. De hecho, lo que estamos haciendo es ridículo, chistoso y muy cómico. Existe el mito de que debemos portarnos de cierta manera durante el sexo: viril, coqueta,



demando jerkoff

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Intercambiar los roles es exactamente como sueña; dejarse recibir cuando antes daba, tomar turnos chupar y ser chupado, morder y ser modido, abofetear y ser abofeteado, abrazar y ser abrazado, coger y ser cogido, agarras la onda.

Contar historias es otra versión de jugar roles. Para mí, eso incluye crear personajes en un escena con un argumento. Puede ser muy detallado con guiones, canciones o aun un baile. Lo más importante es que todos estén de acuerdo en donde nos lleva la historia. También, estas historias pueden salir de la cámara y las normas sociales. Aquí es donde se puede explorar muchos tabúes. El sexo entre las generaciones y entre diferentes especies (tu serás el granjero y yo el ganadero) son unos ejemplos de estos tabúes. Estos juegos podrían desafiar las normas políticas y sociales de una manera positiva y sarcástica. Para mí, es importante recordar que estos juegos representan la fantasía y que estas escenas donde se juegan roles crean espacios consensuales y seguros a donde la gente puede ir conscientemente, críticamente y con la mente abierta.

Leer en voz alta puede ser otra manera divertida de explorar los roles. Leer historias eróticas u otras en voz alta puede añadir algo

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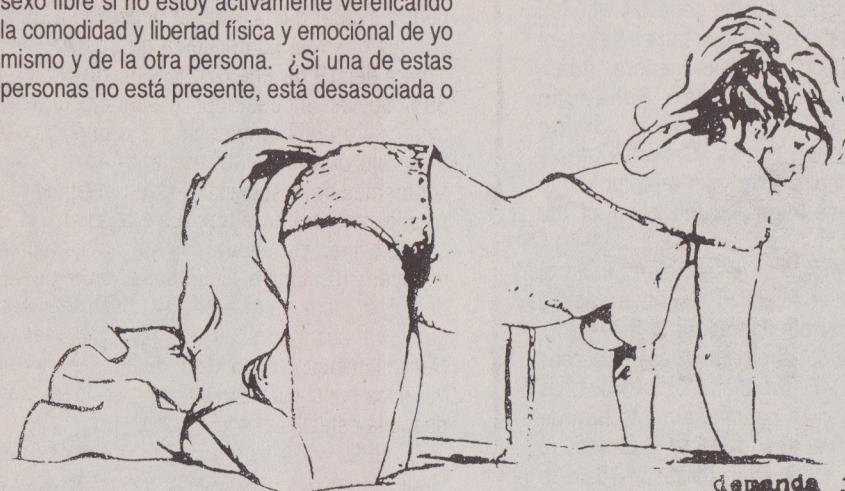
Lubricante

¿Por qué es tan revolucionario estar mojada? Porque nos enseñan como tener sexo mal. Para mí es increíble ver cuanta gente coge sin lubricación. No importa el orificio, lo que importa es que se siente bien. Como joven, aprendiendo que hacer con mis partes, estuve inconsciente de la adición de lubricante. En mi opinión usar mucha lubricación sería mejor. Envejeciendo, mi compromiso al mantener estar

CONTINUADO EN pg 16

JO-ERBIDO

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Ahora les voy a dar los cinco ingredientes que han mejorado mi vida sexual. Ojalá que esta información sea útil o por lo menos entretenida. Ultimamente he notado unos elementos que enriquecen mi vida sexual: el reírse, jugar papeles, jodiendo con el género, lubricante, rompiendo fronteras personales.

El reírse

Me río mucho durante el sexo. Reírme es una adicción nueva a mi vida sexual. El reírse puede tomar muchos formas: una risita modesta, una risota pínsota, reírse de si mismo en un momento torpe o como una manera de comunicar alegría. A menudo mis amantes nuevos tienen mucha curiosidad del por qué estoy riendo. ¿Me estoy riendo de ellos? ¿Qué inspiró esa risita? Mis respuestas varían porque lo que inspira una risita depende de lo que está pasando. Sin embargo, siempre explico que no me estoy riendo de ellos e intento aliviar cualquier inseguridad y ansiedad que resulta de mi risa. En general, lo toman bien y aun puede inspirar una risa de alivio de

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animalístico, hastiado, submisivo, dominante, como tentador, etc. La risa ayuda acallar estas—"debes ser así o así" voces en mi mente. Y neutraliza los pensamientos repetitivos liberándome de las expectativas autoimpuestas de lo "sexy", basadas en fuentes inspiradas por los medios de comunicación. También, reírse es una buena forma de expresar las sensaciones. El ruido durante el sexo en mi opinión es una adicción fabulosa al evento y puede trabajar como un reflejo de lo que está pasando. También es como una expresión de las sensaciones experimentadas: llorar, gritar, gemir, boquear son todos adiciones maravillosas a la simfonía sexual. Algo acerca de reírse, para mí, enriquece la intimidad y la experiencia en general.

Jugar papeles

Añadir un poco de drama a la escena puede ofrecer muchas cosas: reducir los dramas psicológicos y sociales que la gente sufre a veces cuando tiene que ver con el sexo, hacer todo más interesante y creativo, ayudar a acercarse a asuntos prohibidos, y remediar traumas del pasado, solo por decir algunas. Yo noto que a veces nos quedamos estancados en roles sexuales o actos sexuales. Yo me animo a otros a no quedarse en roles como macho o femenina, arriba o abajo, papi o esclavo. Pienso que los papeles son impresionantes, pero todo

abrazar y ser abrazado, coger y ser cogido, agarras la onda.

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CONTINUADO EN PG 16

QUERIDO SLINGSHOT

Querido Slingshot,

Te escribo esta carta por la siguiente razón. Primero, yo recibí el último artículo #84 de Slingshot. Lo he leído desde el principio hasta el final más de una vez y sinceramente lo he disfrutado tremadamente. Me gustaría que usted me renueve mi suscripción.

Segundo, permitame extender mi sincero apoyo y agradecimiento a todo el personal, incluyendo a los traductores en español por el hermoso trabajo. Le deseo a cada uno de ustedes un próspero año nuevo.

Tercero y último, en el artículo #84 uno de los cuales titula "A huge impact for only 23¢". Este artículo fue escrito por LunAcy. Con

referencia a el artículo. Lo ha leído con gran interés. Me gustaría que ella se ponga en contacto conmigo o me mande una copia de Earth Liberator Prisoner List and the Anarchist Black Cross Federation List (as well as other resources). Con este artículo yo asumo que LunAcy esta dispuesta a darme apoyo y solidaridad.

Gracias por tu tiempo.

Sinceramente,
Carlos

Escríbeme a: Carlos Zamalea #43499
SMUJI
P.O. Box 3400
Florence, AZ 85232

••• español ••• español ••• español ••• español

INSULT TO INJURY

THE LONG-STANDING

CRISIS IN ACEH

By Barb Wyre Dixi

Aceh is long overdue in receiving international attention. It's unfortunate that it took the devastation of a tsunami to get the world to turn their heads. As TV viewers cringe and gasp at the piles of bloated bodies being bulldozed into mass graves, little do they know that mass graves are commonplace in Aceh. It's one of the worst situations of repression in the world. The military occupation of Aceh, designed to defeat an armed independence movement and operated by convicted human rights abusers in the Indonesian military (Tentara Nasional Indonesia), has killed tens of thousands of civilians over the last three decades. The known murderers are now in charge of relief efforts in the worst-hit area of the tsunami disaster that has left over 100,000 people dead. The number of casualties are rising, as the politically driven bureaucratic mess of the Indonesian authorities restricts the flow of aid

control of all relief efforts. The Indonesian military blames the G.A.M. for the imposed tight security restrictions on aid workers, even though the G.A.M. has publicly announced their appreciation: "We extend our deepest gratitude to the peoples and governments of countries that have not only shared our griefs and losses but have come to help our suffering people in such a swift, massive and unprecedented generosity."

Meanwhile, reports of military control hampering relief operations are as follows:

- Local NGOs are forbidden to participate in the distribution of aid to survivors and the families of victims.
- Aid packages are being stock piled in Banda Aceh and Median airports and are not being effectively distributed.
- Survivors lined up outside distribution centers are denied aid if they cannot produce identity cards. Sometimes they are harassed and beaten.

are crimes against the state and something that could get you killed in Aceh.

Prior to the tsunami, military officers working in collaboration with the Indonesian government's economic interests succeeded in tightly restricting the flow of information from the province. Security measures in Aceh deny access to foreign media, independent international observers and international human rights organizations. Local humanitarian agencies and NGOs face unacceptable threats. They must make nationalism a priority or risk the consequences. Other local activists have fallen victim to these consequences with reports of poisoning, torture and death. One

report describes the body of Jafar Siddiq Hams, an international spokesman for the Acehnese. In 2000, his corpse turned up wrapped in barb wire with multiple stab wounds in the chest and his face sliced off. This is one example out of an assumed many—but the hard reality is that no one knows for sure what is actually happening in Aceh under



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As sympathizers of tsunami victims pour in donations, they need to know where the money goes. They need to know of not just the present destruction but the decades long devastation that has been forced on the Acehnese people.

Life in Aceh before the tsunami was no paradise. Even though Aceh is rich in resources, the people live in poverty with high rates of hunger and poor nutrition. A massive natural gas operation accrues high profits for Exxon Mobil and the government in Jakarta but leaves the people of Aceh oppressed and empty handed. In response to continuing exploitation from the Indonesian government, people in Aceh demanded independence. For decades, armed rebels known as the Free Aceh Movement (Gerakan Aceh Merdeka or G.A.M.) have battled the Indonesian military, demanding a referendum on independence from Indonesia. The Indonesian military has used G.A.M. as a scapegoat, blaming them for the lack of aid distribution in post-tsunami Aceh. Shortly after the tsunami hit Aceh, G.A.M. declared a ceasefire to ensure safe movement

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The master minds behind the Indonesian strategic operations in Aceh are the same famed human rights abusing generals who led the war against the east Timorese and student protesters in Jakarta. Major general Adam Admire, brigadier general Suhartono Suratman and major general Sjafrie Sjamseddin are key figures. General Damiri's work in east Timor earned him a promotion to assistant for operations to the chief of the general staff.

ExxonMobil wields an incredible amount of financial power in Aceh. They have sucked some \$40 billion from operations in the region. In order to protect their precious resources from the people who live there, ExxonMobil has hired the Indonesian national army to provide "security" for the gas extracting project in Aceh. So, the Indonesian military is paid to perpetrate human rights abuses. The business contract between ExxonMobil and the military includes the construction of buildings on ExxonMobil grounds, which the military uses



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Under martial law, the people of Aceh are not free to move. The military conducts regular sweeps where they stop cars on the road and pull people out. If you don't have proper ID you're taken into custody. If you resist, you are beaten. If you are on a military intelligence list of activists or sympathizers, you "disappear". There is systematic torture, rape and murder. Mass graves pile high with victims of military beatings and massacres.

The Indonesian military is using the tsunami devastation as an opportunity to further implant their military power. They continue to attack and harass the civilian population. More lives are being lost as the military takes

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The majority of people in Aceh do not want to live under a military occupation. They do not want to live in perpetual fear of a very real violent presence. Five years ago, a massive demonstration took place outside of the grand mosque of Banda Aceh. Over half a million Acehnese gathered to peacefully support a call for a referendum — a free vote in which the Acehnese could choose to become independent of Indonesia. Twenty-five percent of the province's population attended this event. Faced with such a massive civilian movement, the military moved quickly to exterminate them. The key organizers and speakers were assassinated, imprisoned, forced into exile or "disappeared". The top military and political officials of Indonesia make it clear that speech against the army and for a referendum vote

The master minds behind the Indonesian strategic operations in Aceh are the same famed human rights abusing generals who led the war against the east Timorese and student protesters in Jakarta. Major general Adam Admire, brigadier general Suhartono Suratman and major general Sjaafrie Sjamseddin are key figures. General Damiri's work in east Timor earned him a promotion to assistant for operations to the chief of the general staff.

ExxonMobil wields an incredible amount of financial power in Aceh. They have sucked some \$40 billion from operations in the region. In order to protect their precious resources from the people who live there, ExxonMobil has hired the Indonesian national army to provide "security" for the gas extracting project in Aceh. So, the Indonesian military is paid to perpetrate human rights abuses. The business contract between ExxonMobil and the military includes the construction of buildings on ExxonMobil grounds, which the military uses for the torture and disappearance of the Acehnese. Another job perk is the provision of excavating equipment which the military allegedly uses for the digging of mass graves for the victims. In order to horde their massive revenues, ExxonMobil needs the Indonesian military to prevent the Acehnese people, at all costs, from achieving their desires: independence.

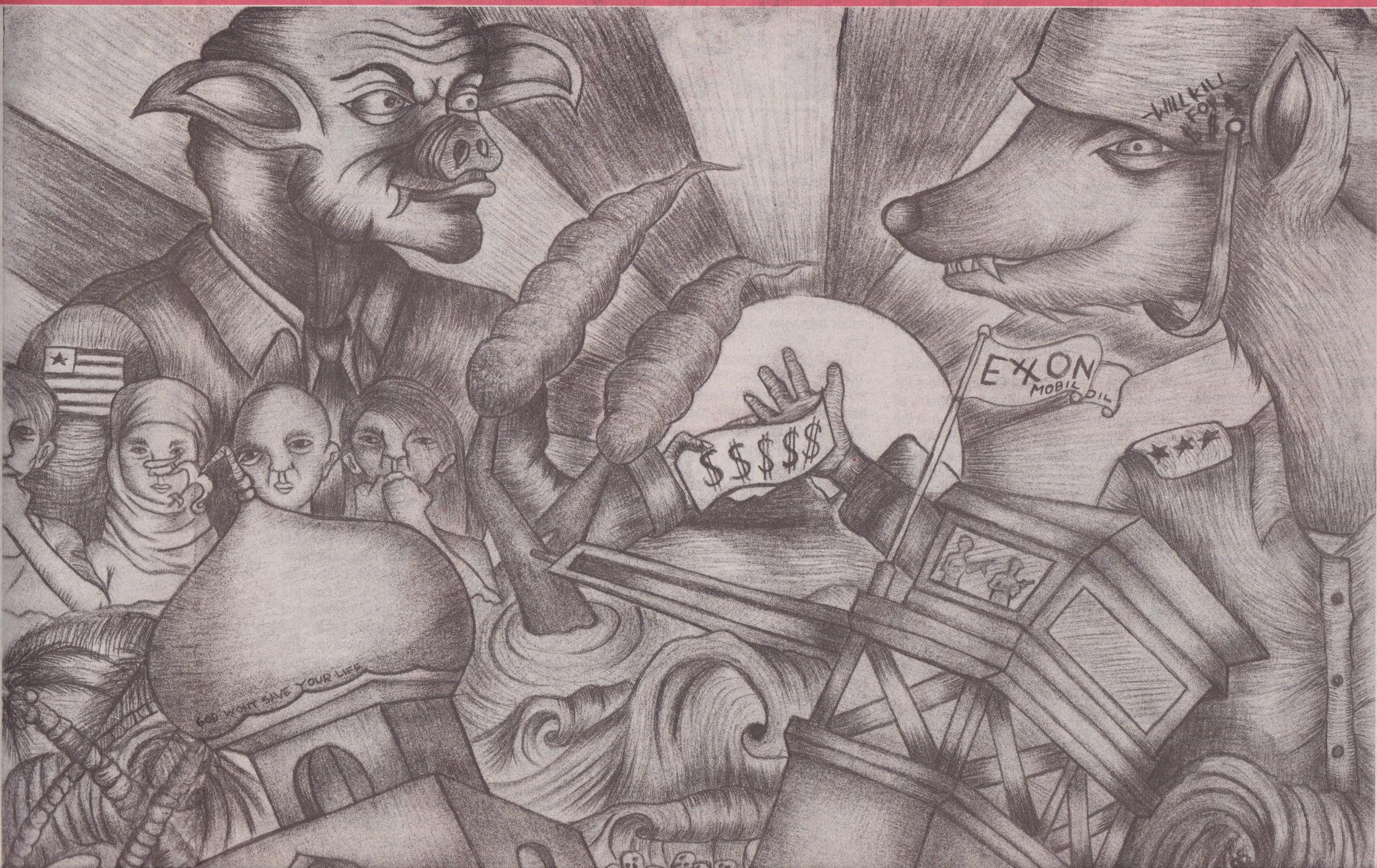
ExxonMobil, the Indonesian military and political officials must be held accountable for their atrocities. Aceh has a right to independence if that's what the people want. Free Aceh!

**For more information on how to donate to local relief efforts, contact www.Etan.Org*

Or just demonstrate at your nearest Indonesian consulate and facilitate massive boycotts of ExxonMobil.



KONTRAVI



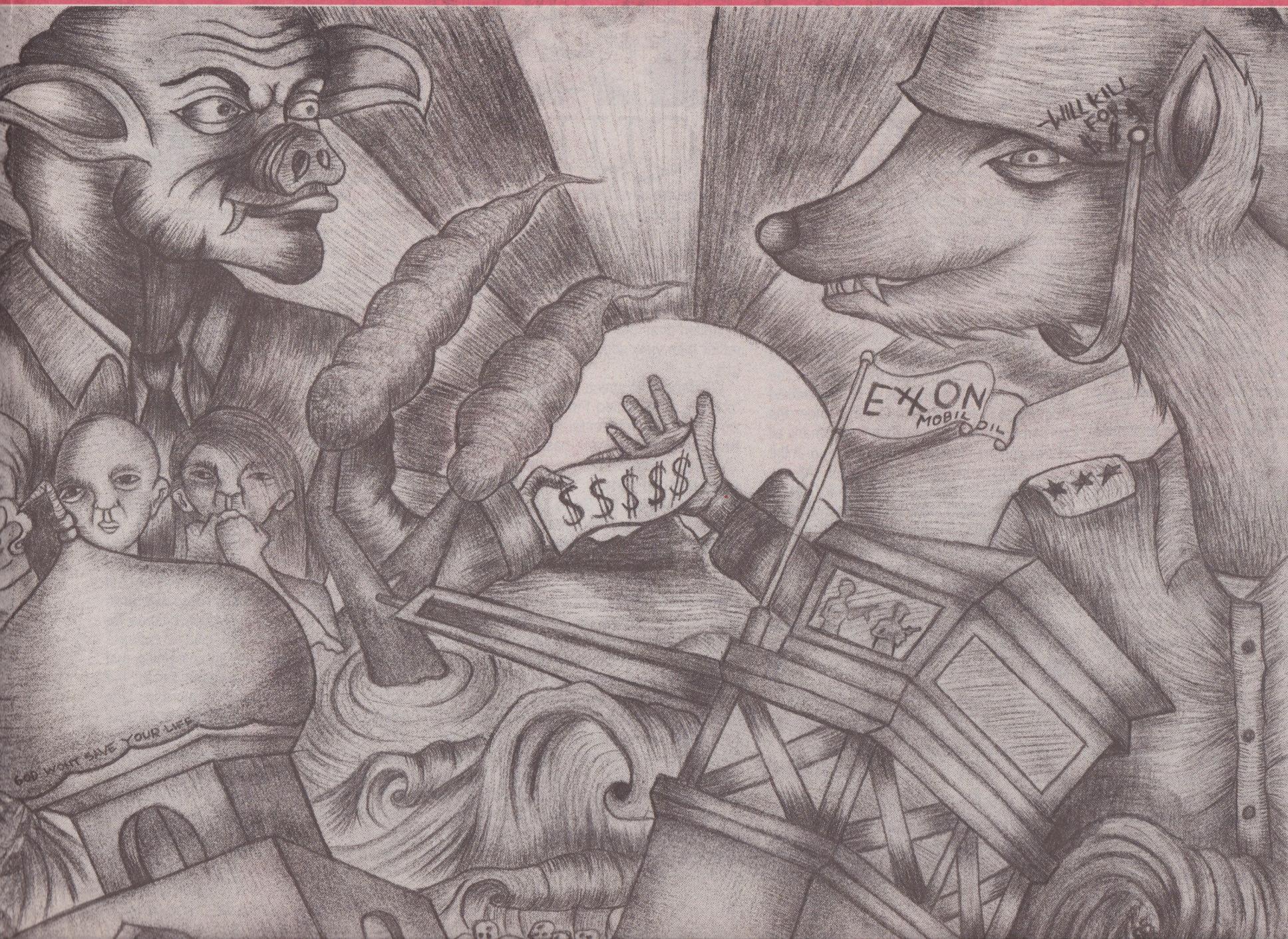


FREE ACEH!

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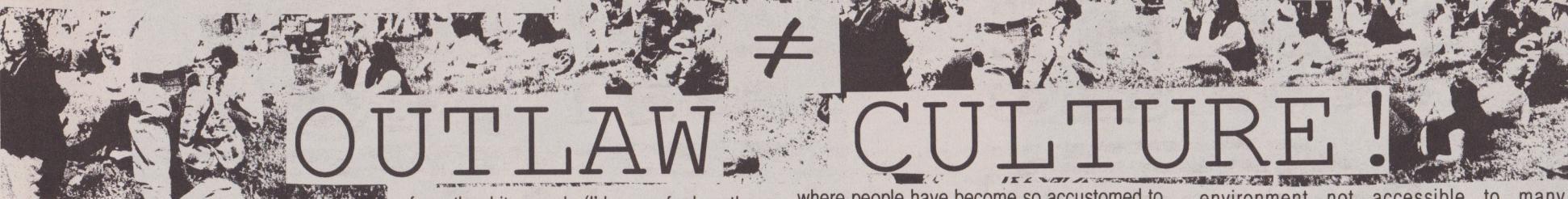








CULTURAL APPROPRIATION ≠ OUTLAW CULTURE!



By MaxZine Weinstein

Can alternative communities wake up enough to ever significantly oppose the white supremacist control of resources? Or, are hip, white revelers being trained through "outlaw culture" to be the shock troops of gentrification, the ones at the edge of their culture who establish colonies, er, communes and collectives, which eventually make it safe for the big investors to move in?

I should have known I was asking for trouble when I decided to attend Bonnaroo, which *Rolling Stone* called "the American rock festival to end all festivals." Held on 700 acres in Middle Tennessee (only 50 miles from my home), the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival sells 90,000 tickets at about \$200 each for its four-day event. My boyfriend and I decided to go because we wanted to see Femi Kuti (son of legendary Nigerian Afrobeat musician Fela Kuti) perform and we could get in for free by agreeing to perform at what we thought would be the radical stage.

I sent Bonnaroo a description of my performance, which I told them would utilize satire, juggling and stilt-walking to explore the "racial history of Tennessee and how that has created the current white supremacist culture." They freaked. While they assured me that they are not racist, they said they could not publicize such a description because they had to be mindful of how the festival impacted the local community and they could not risk being offensive. I should have pulled out, but I was really looking forward to seeing Femi Kuti. In the sweltering June heat, we raced back from the CSX train station in Cincinnati

of mostly white people (I'd guess far less than 10% of the audiences were people of color) cheering on Patti Smith was going to usher in a revolution.

I paid more attention to the festival environment and its many different venues and stages. Bonnaroo set up checkpoints at certain concert entrances to keep bottles and coolers, etc. out of certain areas and to keep areas free of concertgoers while they cleaned the grounds. Tens of thousands of people walked from stage to marketplace to stage under the blazing hot sun, then waited in lines. Nearly all of the workers standing in the open sun at the checkpoints were African Americans. All day long impatient hippies agitated to get in quicker. I couldn't tell if anyone was thankful to the workers. There were lots of visible white workers there too. They were mostly driving around in shaded golf carts or working in shaded concession tents.

It dawned on me that Bonnaroo has managed to create the largest Hippie Plantation, with Black workers (largely bussed in from Atlanta,

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where people have become so accustomed to living in a segregated, privileged world that they cannot or do not want to examine their part in maintaining their privilege, and raising the issue of racism is just gonna be a downer on the great, alternative time people are having. People then often become defensive and complain that they are being guilt-tripped, rather than view education about racism as a gift.

We decided to spend more time over at the "political area" called Planet Roo, the place where the environmental and food activists who had invited us were based. The political scene consisted of, among other things, five environmental groups, mostly focused on liberal causes like the Sierra Club's campaign to get more support for hydrogen cars. This feel-good carnival of activism had no tables, booths or literature focused on environmental racism, racial profiling, police brutality, gentrification, the prison-industrial complex, attacks on immigrants in Tennessee, or discrimination in land ownership patterns and resulting further displacement and marginalization of people of color in the US.

The eco-crowd we joined had built a beautiful earthen structure that housed Earth First literature and crafts for sale. Bonnaroo was a lucrative marketplace for folks with food, drugs or crafts. The joke was that you could sell anything there. One person in our group's booth had attraction-getters described as "primitive"-inspired pottery, including "Shamanic Whistling Pots". Another person offered a workshop on "Shamanic Plants". I objected, explaining that people who are not shamans are capitalizing on the colonization of cultures and profiting either

environment not accessible to many communities. They might opt instead to share their growing, cooking, earth-building and activist skills with communities who do not normally have such access (assuming that they are welcome), places like Brunswick, Georgia where the majority African American residents are still talking about continuing hardships endured from the G8 Summit come and gone. For now, the score is Bonnaroo 90,000, G8 protests 400.

My boyfriend and I left early, before our performance (and Femi Kuti). Enough is enough. I haven't even begun to break down the endemic sexism, homophobia and misogyny, but in this case, it was the white supremacy nurtured by hippie culture and the complicity of anarchist activist friends that was too much. Some of our friends offered their condolences about "it not working out." I offered up some critique of the festival and saw some nodding heads and heard that, while there are problems, it is a good chance for them to explore things like "outlaw culture." Outlaw culture strikes me as something that white folks create in opposition to the dominant paradigm, but it is more or less tolerated by the government. Sure, white folks get busted for drugs too, but "outlaw cultures" like Bonnaroo are tolerated by the government. Bonnaroo hires a private security force to keep the peace at the festival. They are not there to bust people for drugs. The police are outside, directing traffic and playing their role as community relations liaison, because the leaders of the local community want all of the money that a huge festival brings to Tennessee. Bonnaroo, in turn, strives to create an environment of

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What a shock to arrive at this farm in Manchester, Tennessee, and find an extremely open drug culture. Before our tent was set up we were offered many different drugs for sale. I have never seen so many dreadlocks in my life. We're talking zillions of white hippies with dreadlocks.

Cool man, dreadlocks. I am aware that there is lots of debate about whether it is ok for white folks to have dreadlocks. I am not crazy for the idea of European Americans taking on the fashions of oppressed cultures. The hipeoisi reeks of too much mockery. A party held in Montreal with the theme "Cowboys & Indians & Rastafarians" showed how the dominant culture ridicules "exotic" communities. Our local weekly had another example of how dreads are viewed as cultural capital when a white person sports them: "With her dreadlocks and earthy sultriness,

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it turns out) standing in the sun sweating to serve the leisure set (substitute a joint and a homebrew beer for a mint julep and you get the picture). Although there were plenty of anti-war images, there were also plenty of visible Confederate flags and even some Bush/Cheney bumper stickers on cars. Oh, yeah, but it is a party. As they say on their Website, Bonnaroo is "Hailed among critics and fans for its near-flawless logistics, peaceful vibe, and progressive lineup." If you drop a couple hundred bucks to get into a party and then spend more on drugs and food you might not want to give much thought to what kind of exploitation goes into making your fun possible. Or whose backs you are dancing on.

I was depressed by the contrasts. My boyfriend (who is African American), meanwhile, was tirelessly fending off white people who would walk towards him and (possibly unconsciously) expect him (being the Black person) to move over so that they would not have to alter their path. The more he noticed this the more determined he was to stand his ground, and some people literally bumped into him, rather than yield. He was saving "EWPS" (Entitled White Person's

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"Outlaw culture" is not so embraced a few hours down the road in Atlanta. That city has played host to Freaknik, an African American spring break party that has not been tolerated like Bonnaroo. New laws, such as the infamous "no cruising" ordinances, were enacted to restrict the festivities. The city's main newspaper editorialized that it would be better for the city if they would keep their activities to Black parts of town.

I write this from the perspective of a white person looking for ways to actively challenge racism and undermine white supremacy. I am working on a longer writing project on white supremacy in alternative, queer, anarchist and environmental communities, and welcome correspondence on these topics (maxzine69@yahoo.com).

POLITICALLY CORRECT?

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Maybe I just need to lighten up. Well, back to Bonnaroo: After less than an hour there I had serious doubts about how entertained this crowd would be by my stage explorations of race history and land theft.

There were some radical performers and people grooved on it. The first rocker we checked out was Patti Smith. She sang about remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.:

Awake from your slumber
And get 'em with the numbers
Get 'em with the numbers
Long live revolution.

I wasn't trying to be cynical, but having just come from the G8 where there were merely hundreds of protestors amidst 20,000 cops, it was hard to see how this crowd of thousands

serve the leisure set (substitute a joint and a homebrew beer for a mint julep and you get the picture). Although there were plenty of anti-war images, there were also plenty of visible Confederate flags and even some Bush/Cheney bumper stickers on cars. Oh, yeah, but it is a party. As they say on their Website, Bonnaroo is "Hailed among critics and fans for its near-flawless logistics, peaceful vibe, and progressive lineup." If you drop a couple hundred bucks to get into a party and then spend more on drugs and food you might not want to give much thought to what kind of exploitation goes into making your fun possible. Or whose backs you are dancing on.

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continue to suffer from the ravages of imperialism. He said the name of his workshop wasn't important, that he wanted to present information about mind-altering plants, and that he didn't have to refer to them as "shamanic". Unfortunately, months later the group's newsletter extolled his workshop on "Shaman Plants" as one of the successes of their Bonnaroo activities, and how much they looked forward to returning to Bonnaroo 2005 with similar expectations of greatness. The write-up mentioned that their Earth First presentations were well received, but didn't have one word of criticism about the festival's blatant racism and appropriation, and it certainly did not link it to larger issues of white supremacy and imperialist culture. The justification of exploitation is often expressed through silent consent.

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PALESTINE NOW

Permanently Crippled & Controlled

"As long as there is occupation the resistance should be there. It's the only dignity we have left."

—Said Abu Salah, a Palestinian farmer

By Zeev bin Natan

In the spectacle of image manipulation that surrounds the bitter conflict for justice in Palestine and Israel, suffering will likely continue unabated after the latest 'watershed' of the Jan. 9 Palestinian presidential elections. The election, a non-contest from the beginning without the presence of Marwan Barghouti, led to its foregone conclusion: victory for Mahmoud Abbas (aka Abu Mazen), the 'preferred' candidate of the neoliberal global network of control and its media machinery, the White House, the Israeli political and economic elites, the Palestinian oligarchy and the Fatah political machine. The cynicism with which ordinary Palestinians' hopes for change and an end to the nightmare of the Occupation have been manipulated by discourse and hype about "windows of opportunity" is extraordinary. More important for assessing public mood on the street in Gaza was the huge victory by Hamas in the election on Jan. 28 to ten local councils, the first-ever municipal elections in Palestine, garnering two-thirds of the vote. It was a crushing defeat for Fatah. Turn-out topped 80 percent, far greater than in the presidential poll. The message to the entrenched Fatah leadership is loud and clear.

Despite the great ruse of Sharon's 'disengagement plan,' it is common knowledge

submission while pretending it is an agreed settlement brought about by the 'Peace Process'. . . . Abu Mazen and the key Palestinian in the background, Nabil Shaath (the long-time PA 'Foreign Minister' operative working closely with the Israelis and the CIA), are poised to in effect accept the Sharon Plan for what will be called a 'Temporary State' with 'Provisional Boundaries' in about 25% of historic Palestine. Everywhere the Palestinian 'population centers', i.e. Bantustans and Reservations in reality, will be surrounded by the Israeli army which will continue to control all entry/exit and airspace of what is to be a permanently crippled and controlled 'Palestinian state'. The plan is then to flood the Palestinian Bantustans with two things to

2. Begin to consider ways to publicize and support the continuing work of the one opposition candidate with a substantial following in the Palestinian political and public arena, Mustafa Barghouthi, Abbas's main opponent in the Jan. 9 poll who garnered nearly 20 percent of the vote. Barghouthi is a radical democrat who believes in the power of mass non-violent resistance. As long as Marwan remains behind bars, Mustafa is the best alternative on the democratic left. Familiarize yourselves with his organization, the Palestine National Initiative (Al Mubadara), founded in 2002. A noted physician, he is head of the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees, and director of HDIP, the Health, Development Information and Policy Institute

be made to feel the consequences of their own bitter medicine."

4. Join the struggle against the Israeli military. One way is to support Israeli soldiers who are refusing to serve in the Occupied Territories or 'breaking the silence.' The organization Refusing for Israel needs international solidarity, take a look at their principles, work and call for signatures: www.seruv.org.il/english/ An extraordinary organization fighting the militarization of Israeli society, consciousness and education is New Profile, also worth checking out at www.newprofile.org.

5. Join the worldwide fight against the Great Wall of Palestine. The Grassroots Palestinian Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign is a good place to begin: www.stopthewall.org/ And the Yahoo group Anarchists Against the Wall, join in: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/againstwall/> Along with opposition to the Wall, a new focus is the massive expropriation of Palestinian property in al-Quds (East Jerusalem) now being finessed by the Israeli authorities: "The Sharon government intends to strip thousands of West Bank Palestinians of their property in occupied East Jerusalem, according to the Israeli press quoting newly released government documents. At stake are thousands of donoms of land belonging to Palestinians who live in the West Bank and are now unable to access their land due to Israel's separation barrier. . . . By all accounts, the Israeli ministry of interior is using land

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Despite the great ruse of Sharon's 'disengagement plan,' it is common knowledge on the Israeli left that over the short range, Sharon may pay lip service to "the new chance for peace" while he and his cabal of generals will do everything in their power, including a continuation of Israel state violence, to eviscerate the Mazen presidency and ensure its failure or turn him into a Palestinian puppet. The Israeli political-military machine may halt targeted assassinations as a tactical move while keeping its finger on the trigger and ever tightening its grip on Palestinian lands. Above all: pay heed to the actions of Sharon and his ruling clique, not their rhetoric.

Abu Mazen is the Israeli's puppet in that they hold ALL the strings. He has already deployed bulldozers to tear down Palestinian homes and banned civilians from carrying weapons. The 'irrationality' of the 'spiral of violence' begins to look more rational when you understand that the generals who run Israel feed on further violence. Chaos is in the ultimate 'interest' of the expansionist Israeli state and its ruling elite, though not of ordinary Israelis. In Palestine, Jewish

nationalist strategy has been a 'land and water grab' for the past 80 years. It is driven by maintaining a permanent state of emergency. The generals remain poised for a single 'provocation' in order to unleash a massive

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6. In attempting to build a strong pro-Palestinian movement in the U.S., consider the positions as laid out by the New England Committee to Defend Palestine. Perhaps the most radical viewpoint on the path forward voiced by an active group in the United States, they envision a unitary one-state solution for Arabs and Jews: "The Two-State Solution is not just. It is no solution to the turmoil in historic Palestine because at its core it does not undo any wrongs. It is unjust because it is premised on the continued acceptance of the Zionist claim to at least three quarters, if not all, of Palestine as being the exclusive land of the Jews. It is fundamentally flawed as it denies Palestinians the Right of Return; it abandons the Palestinians living within Israel; it does not provide Palestinians any semblance of an independent sovereign state and it allows the US to maintain its role as the main imperialist occupier of the entire Middle East." [7]. Central is their demand for an end to all

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give this new arrangement a chance to work—monies largely from Europe and the World Bank to make daily life a little better . . . and guns supplied by Israel along with the U.S. and U.K. so PA forces will be able to enforce an end to the Palestinian Intifada and in effect become the Israeli police-force in the occupied territories." [8]

based in Ramallah, a grassroots formation bringing together over 90 Palestinian NGOs. Al Mubadara's online journal is The Palestine Monitor [4]. Mustafa has been an outspoken critic of Arafat and the PLO old guard.

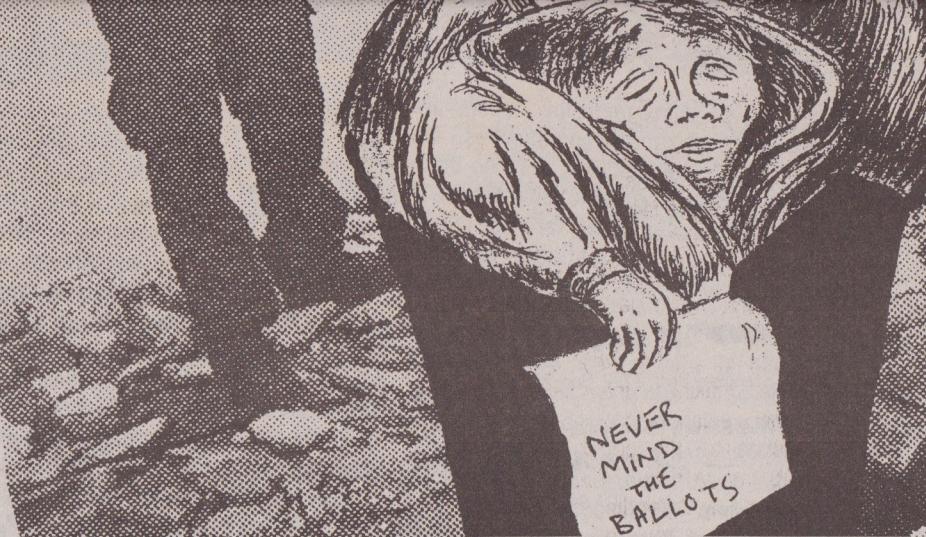
We also need to better understand the huge popularity enjoyed by Hamas, coupling militant resistance with social welfare and an entire

for peace" while he and his cabal of generals will do everything in their power, including a continuation of Israeli state violence, to eviscerate the Mazen presidency and ensure its failure or turn him into a Palestinian puppet. The Israeli political-military machine may halt targeted assassinations as a tactical move while keeping its finger on the trigger and ever tightening its grip on Palestinian lands. Above all: pay heed to the actions of Sharon and his ruling clique, not their rhetoric.

Abu Mazen is the Israeli's puppet in that they hold ALL the strings. He has already deployed bulldozers to tear down Palestinian homes and banned civilians from carrying weapons. The 'irrationality' of the 'spiral of violence' begins to look more rational when you understand that the generals who run Israel feed on further violence. Chaos is in the ultimate 'interest' of the expansionist Israeli state and its ruling elite, though not of ordinary Israelis. In Palestine, Jewish nationalist strategy has been a 'land and water grab' for the past 80 years. It is driven by maintaining a permanent state of emergency. The generals remain poised for a single 'provocation' in order to unleash a massive attack on Gaza.

The new Palestinian leader may believe that if he can end the violence (= armed resistance), Sharon will face domestic and international pressure to start talking about the issues at the heart of the conflict — borders, refugees, and the future of Jerusalem. But why should Sharon suddenly do an about-face? Pressure from where? "Some people say, only half in jest, that the USA is an Israeli colony. . . . President Bush dances to Ariel Sharon's tune. Both Houses of Congress are totally subservient to the Israeli right-wing — much more so than the Knesset" [1]. What may emerge is a kind of Vichy-ization of the Palestinian Authority (PA) under the Occupation, analogous in some ways to the German puppet regime in occupied France in WW II.

As *Mid-East Realities* observed: "With no real Palestinian State any longer possible west of the Jordan, the U.S. and Israel have worked long and hard to get to the point where they could force a quisling Palestinian leadership of their choosing into a kind of convoluted



give this new arrangement a chance to work — monies largely from Europe and the World Bank to make daily life a little better . . . and guns supplied by Israel along with the U.S. and U.K. so PA forces will be able to enforce an end to the Palestinian Intifada and in effect become the Israeli police-force in the occupied territories" [2].

What can stateside anti-authoritarians do?

1. For starters, lend critical support to the minimal program for an Israeli military withdrawal as laid out by Gush Shalom: "Without serious steps to end the Occupation no 'window of opportunity'" [3]. These are short-term demands which no Israeli political-military elite, intent on furthering the long-term national Zionist agenda of Control of all of Palestine, can accede to. They include "Complete cessation of the settlement construction and extension, going on throughout the West Bank, and dismantling of all the 'unauthorized settlement outposts,' total cessation of the manhunt against the 'wanted Palestinians,' their assassinations and

detentions and the nightly invasions of the Palestinian towns and villages; removal of all the roadblocks which deny free movement to the Palestinians and strangle the Palestinian economy; release of the Palestinian political leaders imprisoned in Israel, such as Marwan Barghouti and Husam Hader, members of the Palestinian Legislature."

based in Ramallah, a grassroots formation bringing together over 90 Palestinian NGOs. Al Mubadara's online journal is The Palestine Monitor [4]. Mustafa has been an outspoken critic of Arafat and the PLO old guard.

We also need to better understand the huge popularity enjoyed by Hamas, coupling militant resistance with social welfare and an entire supplementary kindergarten and school system. Their example, a movement deeply rooted in the people rather than party, is a paradigm worth studying [5]. In some respects they are a concrete embodiment in occupied Palestine of 'dual power' in the absence of a 'state.'

3. Add your weight to the economic boycott of Israel, supporting initiatives such as www.boycottisraelgoods.org/. In Israel itself, Conscience (Matzpun, www.matzpun.com) is campaigning for an international boycott of Israeli goods in an effort to put pressure on the Israeli government and Israeli electorate where it hurts, namely in the pocketbook. As Matzpun notes: "We call on the world community to organize and boycott Israeli industrial and agricultural exports and goods, as well as leisure tourism, in the hope that it will have the same positive result that the boycott of South Africa had on apartheid. This boycott should remain in force as long as Israel controls any part of the territories it occupied in 1967. Those who squash the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians must

building, family-reunion and residency permits to slowly force Palestinian residents out of the city.... The total land to be expropriated could add up to half of all East Jerusalem property." [6]. This opens up a new front for struggle.

6. In attempting to build a strong pro-Palestinian movement in the U.S., consider the positions as laid out by the New England Committee to Defend Palestine. Perhaps the most radical viewpoint on the path forward voiced by an active group in the United States, they envision a unitary one-state solution for Arabs and Jews: "The Two-State Solution is not just. It is no solution to the turmoil in historic Palestine because at its core it does not undo any wrongs. It is unjust because it is premised on the continued acceptance of the Zionist claim to at least three quarters, if not all, of Palestine as being the exclusive land of the Jews. It is fundamentally flawed as it denies Palestinians the Right of Return; it abandons the Palestinians living within Israel; it does not provide Palestinians any semblance of an independent sovereign state and it allows the US to maintain its role as the main imperialist occupier of the entire Middle East." [7]. Central is their demand for an end to all U.S. aid to Israel now — military, economic, and political. That call stateside can be a primary

focus in all anti-authoritarian campaigning for a just solution. It has the support of anarchists in the belly of Leviathan in Israel.

1. Uri Avnery, "King George," 22 Jan 2005, www.truthout.org/docs_05/0124051.shtml
2. MER, "Abu Mazen poised to accept Sharon Plan," 27 Jan 2005, www.middleeast.org
3. Accessible at <http://gush-shalom.org/pr/pr13-1-2005eng.html>
4. For information on the PNI, see www.almubadara.org For links to some of his articles, www.palestinemonitor.org/archives/Article_archives_04.htm
5. See Beverley Milton-Edwards and Alastair Crooke, "Elusive Ingredient; Hamas and the Peace Process," 25 Aug 2004, MIFTAH, www.miftah.org/Display.cfm?DocId=4591&CategoryId=21
6. "Israel plans big Jerusalem land grab," Al-jazeera, 20 Jan 2005, english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/0B317DOC-9689-43F0-B773-E6A833C8F296.htm
7. Lana Habash and Noah Cohen, "Zionism is the Issue: Building a Strong Pro-Palestinian Movement In the US," 11 Jan 2005, www.onepalestine.org/resources/articles/Zionism_Is_Issue.html

Strike the war's Achilles

Continued from page 1

primarily target low-income communities selling the message that the military is a good way out of poverty.

As a result, the highest number of recruits come from the poorest communities. For example, according to the American Friends Service Committee, "Puerto Rico is the Army's number one recruiting territory. With an unemployment rate on the island of more than 40 percent, Army recruiting offices in Puerto Rico garner more than 4 times the number of recruits US based recruiting offices average on a yearly basis." Blacks are also recruited disproportionately: 29.8 percent of those serving in the first Gulf War were black versus about 12 percent of the US population.

But with over 1,400 US troops killed and over 10,000 wounded in a pointless war — and more getting killed almost every day — the poverty draft is getting less and less effective. For the first time in 10 years, the Marines Corps, which has taken heavy casualties in Iraq, missed its monthly recruiting goal for January. The Army National Guard missed its goal of recruiting 56,000 troops for fiscal 2004, signing up only 49,210. Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said on January 26 that the Guard is 15,000 troops short of its normal strength of 350,000. In response, the National guard will add an additional 1,400 recruiters, and offer \$15,000 signing bonuses. The regular army has so far met its recruitment goals, but all is not well in the ranks.

Stars & Stripes, a government-funded, military newspaper, surveyed 1,935 soldiers in Iraq during August 2003 for a series of articles published in October 2003 and found that 49 percent said they intended to leave

"suicide mission." It was the first reported mutiny in Iraq and was only made public because the soldiers called their families from a detention tent. We'll probably never know about other mutiny incidents in Iraq.

Troop support for the policies underlying the war has also evaporated. In response to the *Stars and Stripes* question, "How worthwhile do you think fighting this war was for America?" 31 percent said it was of "little

be even more necessary if the Bush Administration hopes to invade Iran, Syria and/or North Korea over the next four years, as they would clearly like to do. The prospect of a draft rightly scares a lot of draft-age people who don't much like the idea of either giving their lives for Bush's adventures or going to jail.

But looking beyond the fear factor, if the military is forced into a draft, it could help

left with a real crisis — if he tries a draft in the context of such an unpopular war, he would be putting domestic social stability at grave risk.

When I saw the new movie about the Weather Underground last year, one line stuck with me. A guy tried to explain his state of mind during the Vietnam war by saying that for years and years, every day he woke up and the first thing he thought was that there was

If an official draft would lead to a national uprising, why are we letting the government get away with a poverty draft — why can't we have the national uprising now!

value" or "not worthwhile at all," while 48 percent responded that it was "worthwhile" or "very worthwhile." Thirty-five percent answered that they were either "mostly unclear" or "not clear at all" about why they were in Iraq.

Because of the war, there are increasing murmurs that an *official* draft — not just the poverty draft — may be needed if the US is to continue the occupation of Iraq. A draft may

crystallize opposition to Bush and his wars. The January 19 *Los Angeles Times* poll found that only 39 percent of respondents said the "situation in Iraq was worth going to war over," — with 56 percent saying it was not. What if all segments of American society — not primarily the poor — had sons and daughters in Iraq or headed that way? If voluntary recruitment declines and troops returning from Iraq refuse to re-enlist, Bush is

a war on, that people were getting slaughtered for nothing, that the government of the place where he lived was killing them. And so every morning he would think, "What am I going to do today to stop the war?"

And the last few months, I've increasingly been waking up the same way. What can I do — what will I do — today to stop the war? Stopping this particular war isn't just about

Continued on page 15



Military Recruiters:
WANT YOU BACK!

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Stars & Stripes, a government-funded, military newspaper, surveyed 1,935 soldiers in Iraq during August 2003 for a series of articles published in October 2003 and found that 49 percent said they intended to leave the military as soon as possible. Only 18 percent said it was "very likely" they would remain. 55 percent of National Guard Reserve troops surveyed said it was "unlikely" or "very unlikely" that they would re-enlist. Since the article, the military has kept a tight lid on any other polls that would contradict Bush's official version of reality.

One way the military has tried to maintain troop strength is by issuing "stop loss" orders that prevent soldiers from leaving the military when their contracts expire. Some troops have called the stop loss orders a "backdoor draft."

Estimates of desertions from the war or AWOL troops range from 600 to 5,500 — the Pentagon refuses to provide any data. Canada is currently considering whether to grant refugee status to a handful of US soldiers fleeing service in Iraq.

Moreover, reports of resistance amongst US troops are beginning to surface. On October 13, 2004, 19 National Guard troops refused orders to drive unarmored fuel tankers to Baghdad — they considered it a

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Continued on page 15

Military Recruiters: WATCH YOUR BACK!

Bring the war home — Address list

The following US Army recruiting stations are in or near areas that have significant radical communities. Therefore, this is a reasonable initial list of recruiting stations that could be targeted for disruptive actions designed to cripple the US war effort in Iraq. A diversity of tactics is in order, ranging from protests, telephone call campaigns and informational pickets to occupations, wheatpasting, graffiti, etc. Folks may want to design theater

performances wherein buzz cut potential recruits show up and ask some mighty hard questions about all those weapons of mass destruction and the "don't ask, don't tell policy." The recruitment arm of the military is essential to the functioning of the whole machine — they shouldn't get a free ride here in the US while the slaughter continues in Iraq. Get together with your friends, use your creativity and don't get caught!

Arizona

- Tucson: 2302 E. Speedway Blvd. # 112, Sun, AZ 85719, 520-326-6957
- Phoenix: 1647-C West Bethany Home Road, Phoenix, AZ 85015, 602-249-2320

California

- Oakland: 2116 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-835-7985
- San Francisco: 670 Davis St, Golden Gateway Common # 111, San Francisco, CA 94111, 415-433-4512
- San Diego: 4150 Mission Blvd. # 159, San Diego, CA 92109, 858-273-3781
- Los Angeles: 2700 Colorado Blvd # 149, Los Angeles, CA 90041
- Santa Cruz: 2121 41st Ave # 204, Capitola, CA 95010, 831-424-0461

Indiana

- Indianapolis: 302 Washington Pointe Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46229, 317-898-3032
- Bloomington: 327 S Walnut St # 102, Bloomington, IN 47401, 812-333-0240

Kansas

- Lawrence: 115 South Clairborne, Olathe, KS 66062, 913-764-2113

Louisiana

- New Orleans: 514 City Park Ave, New Orleans, LA 70119, 504-488-6672

Maryland

- Baltimore: 1253 W. Pratt Street # D, Mountclair Junction Shopping Ctr, Baltimore, MD 21223, 410-727-

Ohio

- Oberlin: 300 Broadway Ave, Lorain, OH 44052, 440-245-6351
- Toledo: Miracle Mile Shopping Center, 4925 Jackman Rd, Toledo, OH 43613, 419-292-0358

Oregon

- Portland: 1317 NE Broadway St, Portland, OR 97232, 503-284-4005
- Eugene: Santa Clara Shopping Center, 65-J Division Avenue, Suite D, Eugene, OR 97404, 541-345-3877

Pennsylvania

- Philadelphia: Auerbach Bldg, 125 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107, 215-568-1921
- Pittsburgh: 3712 Forbes Avenue, 2nd Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, 412-683-1057

Bring the war home - Address list

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- Los Angeles: 2700 Colorado Blvd # 149, Los Angeles, CA 90041
- Santa Cruz: 2121 41st Ave # 204, Capitola, CA 95010, 831-464-0461
- Eureka: 3220 S. Broadway Suite A-13, Eureka, CA 95501, 707-443-3019

Colorado

- Denver: 130 Tivoli Student Union, 900 Auraria Pkwy Unit 130, Denver, CO 80204, 720-904-2174
- Boulder: 3055 Walnut St, Palm Gardens Shpg Ctr, Boulder, CO 80301, 303-442-1751

Connecticut

- New Haven: 161 Orange Street, New Haven, CT 06510, 203-624-3312

Florida

- Gainesville: 3218 SW 35th Blvd, # D, Butler Plaza, Gainesville, FL 32608, 352-335-5600
- Pensacola: Southgate Plaza, 528 N. Navy Blvd, Suite C., Pensacola, FL 32507, 850-458-9996
- Miami: Boulevard Shops, 1401 Biscayne Blvd, # 1490-D, Miami, FL 33132, 305-371-8755

Georgia

- Atlanta: 650 Ponce De Leon, # 640-B, Midtown Place Shopping Center, Atlanta, GA 30308, 404-685-9994

Illinois

- Chicago: 1239 N Clybourn Ave, Suite 226, Chicago, IL 60610, 312-202-0430
- Champaign/Urbana: Plaza West, 1615 Springfield Ave, Champaign, IL 61821, 217-356-2838

Indiana

- Indianapolis: 302 Washington Pointe Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46229, 317-898-3032
- Bloomington: 327 S Walnut St # 102, Bloomington, IN 47401, 812-333-0240

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Maryland

- Baltimore: 1253 W. Pratt Street # D, Mountclair Junction Shopping Ctr, Baltimore, MD 21223, 410-727-2769

Massachusetts

- Boston: 141 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111, 617-426-6488
- Western Mass: Big Y Plaza, 485a Newton Street, South Hadley, MA 01075, 413-533-2501

Minnesota

- Minneapolis: 9 Sixth Ave South, Hopkins, MN 55343, 952-935-3000

Missouri

- Kansas City: 3909 S. Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, 816-561-0613

Nebraska

- Lincoln: Military & Naval Science Bldg, Rm 205, 14th & Vine Sts, Lincoln, NE 68588, 402-472-4602

New York

- Manhattan: 688 6th Avenue 2nd Flr, New York, NY 10010, 212-255-8229

North Carolina

- Durham: U.S. Army Recruiting Station, 3400 Westgate Dr, Westgate Plaza, Durham, NC 27707, 919-490-6671

Ohio

- Oberlin: 300 Broadway Ave, Lorain, OH 44052, 440-245-6351
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Tennessee

- Knoxville: 168 N Seven Oaks Drive, Windsor Square Shopping Center, Knoxville, TN 37922, 865-690-0473

Texas

- Austin: 2025 Guadalupe, Ste 258, Dobie Mall-Ut Campus, Austin, TX 78705, 512-472-7616
- Houston: River Oaks Plaza Shopping Ctr, 1432 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019, 713-942-0120

Virginia

- Richmond: Shops At Willow Lawn, Store 301d, 1602 Willow Lawn Drive, Richmond, VA 23230, 804-285-6690

Washington

- Olympia: 400 Cooper Point Rd Ste Cv6, Olympia, WA 98502, 360-943-3732
- Seattle: 2301 S Jackson St Ste 205, Seattle, WA 98144, 206-324-3437

Washington, DC

- Franklin Ct Bldg, Box 18 1099 14th Street Nw (L St. Entrance), Washington, DC 20005, 202-761-4344

Wisconsin

- Madison: 73 University Square, Madison, WI 53715, 608-255-4684
- Milwaukee: 3133 N Oakland Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53211, 414-963-4727

heel

Iraq — this is about folks who live here in the United States joining the world against the US empire and figuring out how we can turn the fact that we're here in the belly of the beast to maximum advantage. Even if the US starts to pull its troops out of Iraq, we have to assume that the US just hopes to regroup so it can invade somewhere else.

I like the idea of dogging the military recruiting stations around the country because every town and city has one and you don't need a big budget or a huge scripted ANSWER rally or anything to go down there and give 'em hell. You can pick a regular time — say every Saturday — and do a picket. Or you can go at an unpredictable time every week so they never know when it's going to happen. You can go alone, or with friends, or organize a big group. You can send out a press release and make it a public thing, or you can make your action covert. It can be a picket, handing out flyers, holding posters with gory photos from Iraq à la anti-abortion protests, having street theater, running inside for some light disruption or total outrageous mayhem with fake blood, coffins and a marching band. A lot of different social groups in a community could all hassle the same station in a variety of ways. Perhaps one day there would be veterans, one day high school students, one day mothers, one day clergy, etc. Maybe if your town has 3 high schools, they could run a contest to see which one can do the best protest. And since military recruiters go out to high schools and colleges on a regular basis, students can confront them on campus, too. On January 20, community college students in Seattle surrounded and trashed a recruiters table. The cops had to escort the recruiter's to safety.

You know how so many towns have a Food

Words of encouragement from an expatriate Conscientious Objector

By Bob Norris

"America, love it or leave it." That's what a lot of us resisters and conscientious objectors heard back in the sixties and seventies. I was one of the ones who took the advice literally. The United States seemed like a foreign country to me then, and it still does now.

As an expatriate living in Japan, I rely on the Internet to get my alternative news. I have to admit to an obsessive addiction to searching such sites as Citizen Soldier, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Military Families Speak Out, SNAFU, as well as older ones like Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace, War Resisters League, and several others in an attempt to keep up with what's going on in my old "foreign country." I find it welcoming, encouraging, and even a bit nostalgic to read that military resistance to the Iraq war is gaining momentum — some soldiers refusing to carry out "suicide" missions; a few soldiers fleeing to Canada to seek refugee status; military families speaking out publicly against the war and setting up websites to spread their message; suits being filed in

Late in 1969 I became a conscientious objector (CO) from within the Air Force after being hoodwinked by a recruiter into believing I'd never have to carry a gun. Country bumpkin that I was at the age of eighteen, I bought that lie hook, line, and sinker. Turned out I had to undergo combat training for the job of guarding B-52 bombers. Not long after Kent State, I got my order to Southeast Asia. By that time, I was involved with a few GI "heads" who were putting out an antiwar paper. I refused my order and was court-martialed. My legal counsel was an antiwar man who'd been drafted after he completed his law degree and decided to join the Air Force so he could work from within the system rather than head off to Canada and waste all that schooling. I was his first big case and he worked hard on it.

My court martial took place on October 8, 1970. I was charged with willful disobedience to a direct lawful order and faced a maximum five years of hard labor in the brig and a dishonorable discharge. I was found not guilty of the original charge, but guilty of the lesser charge of negligent

countries, many jobs and changes, and finally to Japan, where I've lived and worked since 1983. I can truthfully say that I haven't regretted for a moment my decision to resist. My life has been full and rewarding. Although I could not have fathomed the thought at the age of eighteen, I now know that I'm a small but important part of a long history. As long as there have been wars, there have also been voices raised in opposition to wars. It's a tradition of which I'm proud to be a part.

So what can we tell this new generation of COs? How can we encourage them to keep the faith and not to lose hope? How can we let them know that their actions are worthy and meaningful? One thing is to remind them that history is on their side and that the more they resist, the more others will follow and throw huge monkey wrenches in the government and military's ability to wage illegal and unjust wars. The more military resistance grows, the weaker the Army becomes in trying to suppress it.

A good example can be taken from my Vietnam War generation. During that war the GI movement and resistance from within the ranks definitely played a big role in bringing the war to an end. According to Heather T. Frazer and John O'Sullivan's "We Have Just Begun to Not Fight" (Twayne Publishers, 1996), there were fifteen conscientious objectors for every 10,000 inductees into the military in World War II, or 0.15 percent. As the Vietnam War heated up and opposition to it escalated, the



United States Selective Service System

ORDER TO REPORT FOR INDUCTION



Citizens of the United States
Over 50 Years of Age

And All: Politicians, Judges, Lawyers, Bankers and Clergy

covert. It can be a picket, handing out flyers, holding posters with gory photos from Iraq à la anti-abortion protests, having street theater, running inside for some light disruption or total outrageous mayhem with fake blood, coffins and a marching band. A lot of different social groups in a community could all hassle the same station in a variety of ways. Perhaps one day there would be veterans, one day high school students, one day mothers, one day clergy, etc. Maybe if your town has 3 high schools, they could run a contest to see which one can do the best protest. And since military recruiters go out to high schools and colleges on a regular basis, students can confront them on campus, too. On January 20, community college students in Seattle surrounded and trashed a recruiters table. The cops had to escort the recruiter's to safety.

You know how so many towns have a Food Not Bombs chapter and a critical mass bike ride, etc. — what if all these towns went after the recruiters? Anywhere where there's radicals, punks, free thinkers, freedom lovers — the military recruiters are gonna get hassled. Diversity, spontaneity and creativity are our key strengths in such efforts.

Bush shouldn't be able to get away with this war just because "only" the poor have to fight it. If an *official* draft would lead to a national uprising, why are we letting the government get away with a *poverty draft* — why can't we have the national uprising now! An all-volunteer Army can be a shield against pointless wars of aggression. To exploit this Achilles heel, we need to support the troops in their refusal and shut down the recruiters!

For more information or for flyers, materials, etc.: contact some of these folks:

- Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, 405 14th Street #205 Oakland, CA 94612 510-465-1617, www.objector.org; sponsors the GI Rights Hotline (800) 394-9544; (215) 563-4620.
- War Resisters League 339 Lafayette Street New York, NY 10012 (212) 228-0450 fax (212) 228-6193 wrl@warresisters.org
- Veterans for Peace, 216 S. Meramec Ave., St. Louis, MO 63130, (314) 725-6005, www.veteransforpeace.org

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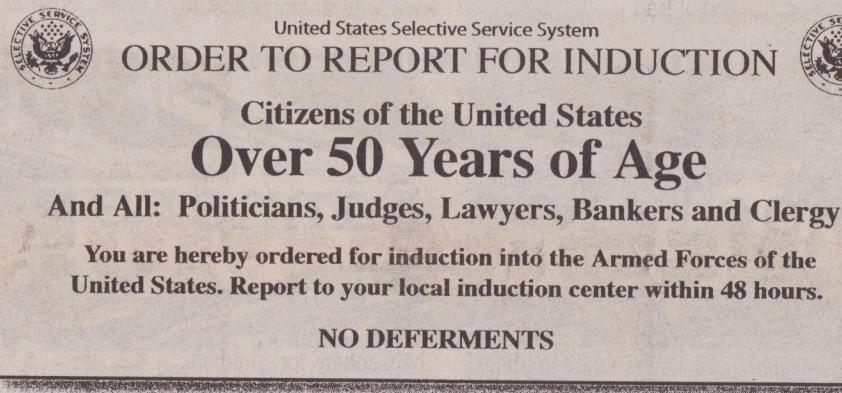
My court martial took place on October 8, 1970. I was charged with willful disobedience to a direct lawful order and faced a maximum five years of hard labor in the brig and a dishonorable discharge. I was found not guilty of the original charge, but guilty of the lesser charge of negligent

and meaningless? One thing is to remind them that history is on their side and that the more they resist, the more others will follow and throw huge monkey wrenches in the government and military's ability to wage illegal and unjust wars. The more military resistance grows, the weaker the Army becomes in trying to suppress it.

A good example can be taken from my Vietnam War generation. During that war the GI movement and resistance from within the ranks definitely played a big role in bringing the war to an end. According to Heather T. Frazer and John O'Sullivan's "We Have Just Begun to Not Fight" (Twayne Publishers, 1996), there were fifteen conscientious objectors for every 10,000 inductees into the military in World War II, or 0.15 percent. As the Vietnam War heated up and opposition to it escalated, the number of COs increased rapidly. In 1968, the percentage of COs per number of inductees rose to 8.5 percent. In 1969, it reached 13.5 percent; in 1970, 25.6 percent; in 1971, 42.6 percent. In 1972, with the scaling down of American forces in Vietnam and the winding down of the draft, for the first time in history more men were classified as COs than were inducted: 33,041 to 25,273.

Another example comes from James Lewis's "Protest and Survive: Underground GI Newspapers During the Vietnam War" (Prager, 2003). Included in that book are tables showing year by year Reported Incidents of GI Dissent, Military Antiwar Activists Arrested, and Average Sentence per GI Activist. The latter table shows that in 1966 the average sentence per GI activist was over forty months at hard labor. By 1969 it had fallen to less than five months at hard labor. This corresponded with a large number of "fragging" cases and a huge jump in reported incidents of dissent. You could say the military was losing control of its own soldiers and having to bow to pressure from within.

With the ongoing occupation of Iraq, the Abu Ghraib prison and other scandals, and the strong possibility that the draft will return soon, thousands of young men and women are faced once again with the issue of following their consciences. If they — civilians and current soldiers alike — resist the war in large numbers, they have the ability to bring the senseless killing to a standstill and make their thousands of



federal court challenging the Bush administration's "stop-loss" policy that forces soldiers to remain in uniform for a year or more after their contracts expire.

I often send letters of encouragement to these new conscientious objectors. I want them to know that they're not alone, that

disobedience and sentenced to six months with no punitive discharge. The reason I was found not guilty of the original charge was that I never said a direct "no" to my commanding officer when I was called before him and given the formal order. I just kept repeating "I don't feel I'm mentally or

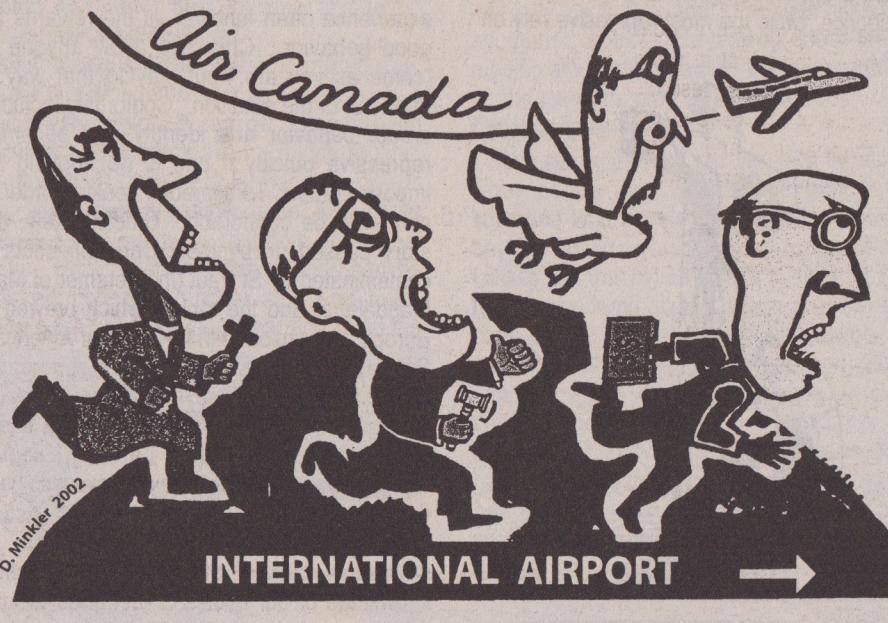
the recruiters? Anywhere where there's radicals, punks, free thinkers, freedom lovers — the military recruiters are gonna get hassled. Diversity, spontaneity and creativity are our key strengths in such efforts.

Bush shouldn't be able to get away with this war just because "only" the poor have to fight it. If an *official* draft would lead to a national uprising, why are we letting the government get away with a *poverty draft* — why can't we have the national uprising *now!* An all-volunteer Army can be a shield against pointless wars of aggression. To exploit this Achilles heel, we need to support the troops in their refusal and shut down the recruiters!

For more information or for flyers, materials, etc. contact some of these folks:

- Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, 405 14th Street #205 Oakland, CA 94612 510-465-1617, www.objector.org; sponsors the GI Rights Hotline (800) 394-9544; (215) 563-4620.
- War Resisters League 339 Lafayette Street New York, NY 10012 (212) 228-0450 fax (212) 228-6193 wrl@warresisters.org
- Veterans for Peace, 216 S. Meramec Ave., St. Louis, MO 63130, (314) 725-6005, www.veteransforpeace.org

NO DEFERMENTS



federal court challenging the Bush administration's "stop-loss" policy that forces soldiers to remain in uniform for a year or more after their contracts expire.

I often send letters of encouragement to these new conscientious objectors. I want them to know that they're not alone, that their actions are admirable and right, that they may suffer abuse, indignity, harassment, and perhaps even ostracism and imprisonment, but in the long run their lives will turn out all right.

I can certainly empathize with the loneliness, the weight, and the enormity of what goes into making the decision to resist. In your late teens and early twenties, you're seldom able to articulate the full depth of your feelings, morals, and values. You're scared. You feel weak and not up to the task. You're often full of self doubt. You know the decision will change the course of the rest of your life. It changed mine irrevocably.

disobedience and sentenced to six months with no punitive discharge. The reason I was found not guilty of the original charge was that I never said a direct "no" to my commanding officer when I was called before him and given the formal order. I just kept repeating "I don't feel I'm mentally or physically capable of killing another human being." It was my initiation into the power of language. That one sentence saved four and a half years of my life. They sent me off to a special Air Force prison in Colorado for nonviolent offenders, who were given a chance to rehabilitate, retrain into a different career field, and return to the service with a chance to serve out their obligation and get a good discharge. I didn't buy into the brainwashing, adamantly refused to follow the program, and eventually got kicked out with an "undesirable" discharge.

That experience was the springboard for a nomadic life that led me through many



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Robert W. Norris has lived and taught English in Japan since 1983. He is the author of three novels: "Toraware," "Looking for the Summer," and "The Many Roads to Japan." He is a professor and the dean of students at Fukuoka International University. Check out Norris's homepage at www.gol.com/users/norris

GÓLPE AL TENDÓN DE AQUILAS DE LA GUERRA: RECLUTAMIENTO MILITAR

continuado de pg 8

pancartas. O puedes ir cada semana a una hora inesperada para que nunca sepan cuándo va a suceder. Puedes ir sol@ o con amig@s, o organizar un grupo grande. Puedes tener una conferencia de prensa y hacer un evento público o puedes hacer la acción de manera encubierta. Puede ser con pancartas, repartiendo bolantes, colocando posters con fotos morbosas de Irak, al estilo de las manifestaciones antiaborto, hacer teatro callejero, entrar creando un poco de confusión o un caos total con sangre falsa, ataúdes y una banda. Muchos grupos sociales de una comunidad podrían molestar la misma estación en diversas formas. Tal vez un día podría haber veteranos, otro día estudiantes de preparatoria, otro día madres, otro día el clero, etc. Tal vez si en tu población hay 3 escuelas preparatorias, podrían hacer un concurso para ver cuál puede hacer la mejor protesta. Y ya que las agencias de reclutamiento van a las escuelas preparatorias

y universidades de manera regular, los estudiantes pueden confrontarlos también en sus terrenos. El 20 de enero, algunos estudiantes de una universidad comunitaria en Seattle, rodearon y destruyeron una mesa de reclutamiento. La policía tuvo que escoltar a los reclutadores en su salida.

Así como cada población tiene una sucursal de Food Not Bombs y Critical Mass Bike Ride etc., ¿qué tal si cada pueblo protestara ante los reclutadores? En cualquier lugar en donde

nacional ahora?! Un ejército compuesto de voluntarios puede ser escudado en contra de guerras de agresión sin sentido. Para explotar este tendón de Aquiles, necesitamos apoyar a las tropas en su resistencia y terminar con el reclutamiento!

Para obtener más información o circulares, materiales, etc., contacte algunos de estos grupos:

- Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (Comité Central para Objetores

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haya gente radical, punk, pensadores libres, amantes de la libertad, los reclutadores militares van a ser cuestionados. La diversidad, esponaneidad y creatividad, son nuestras fuerzas clave en dichos esfuerzos.

Bush no debe de salirse con la suya en esta guerra solo porque "sólo" la gente pobre la tiene que pelear. Si un Reclutamiento Oficial llevaría a un levantamiento nacional, ¿por qué estamos dejando que el gobierno se salga con las suyas con el Reclutamiento de la Pobreza? ¡¿Por qué no podemos tener un levantamiento

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Consejo caliente para disfutar y radicalizar el sexo



continuado de pg 9

mojado aumenta en audaz y por eso, con lubricante logro llegar a esta lista. A la gente les gusta diferentes cualidades de lubricante, desde pegajosa a resbalosa, chiclosa a suave, grumosa hasta cremosa. Me gustaría saber si más gente experimenta con diferentes cualidades de estar mojada. Imagino que el mundo seria un sitio más feliz si esto sucediese. Deslízalo.

Empujando Auto Límites

Igual como desmantelar el racismo, sexo puede empujarnos mas allá de las zonas de comodidad que nos llegaron por la cultura dominante. Nos enseñaron muchas cosas que consideramos peligrosas, espantosas, asquerosas, o prohibidas que pueden ser exploradas sin peligro en una situación sexual. Una parte de empujar a mi misma más allá de mi

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Sunday School for Sinners

Continued from page 1

erosion of the public safety net with the exportation of living wage jobs has forced hordes of families to seek refuge elsewhere. Churches have long been a staple fixture of inner city communities, and they are often one of the only meeting places in rural communities. Some church complexes (and this is Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, not "cults") are comprised of sanctuaries, daycare, kindergarten to high school, bars, lounges, soup kitchens and pantries, shelters, gyms and fields, banquet halls and more. Many hospitals began as part of church work, and charities like Habitat for Humanity are still Christian run. What if you saw all that on an infoshop brochure?

Christianity provides (like many religions) comprehensive community. Rites of passage — especially birth, coupling and death — have a defined meaning and place. Rituals offer physical and spiritual satiation, whether communion, baptism, speaking in tongues, bible study, or holiday celebrations. Because there

in the organization, and just as much to abhor. The best expressions of Christianity have created a symbiotic community based on love and service, while the most repressive rely on



hemisphere for centuries.

The morals of love and brotherhood purported to be such a part of the Christian experience often function as the rewards for good behavior. Churches allow anyone to "come as you are," but staying that way is often out of the question. Conformity includes creed, behavior and identity and becomes repressive quickly if one is not looking for imposed order. To someone seeking order, it can even be comforting. Unfortunately, the story passed on by most Christian sects is contaminated by St Paul (the defamer of Mary Magdalene) and the racism which brewed in Europe and exploded in the colonial Americas. Sunday morning is still the most segregated time in the US, which says a lot if many people depend on church for community and social welfare. Connections between sexual repression and abusive behavior have also been documented (2). As much as Christian morality denounces over-stimulation as unhealthy, lack of stimulation — whether knowledge of our bodies or just good fucking — does a whole lot of bad, too. It would be impossible to blame the US's "isms" entirely on Christianity, but the propaganda does

continuado de pg 9

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Empujando Auto Límites

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Siempre, nosotros estamos buscando ayuda con la traducción y tambien artículos escrito en español. Si tienes interes mande un e-mail a:

slingshot@tao.ca

¡Muchas gracias a todos que participaron en este número!



There is a fine line between information and evangelism but silence will never attract more

OFF YOUR TANK

erosion of the public safety net with the exportation of living wage jobs has forced hordes of families to seek refuge elsewhere. Churches have long been a staple fixture of inner city communities, and they are often one of the only meeting places in rural communities. Some church complexes (and this is Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, not "cults") are comprised of sanctuaries, daycare, kindergarten to high school, bars, lounges, soup kitchens and pantries, shelters, gyms and fields, banquet halls and more. Many hospitals began as part of church work, and charities like Habitat for Humanity are still Christian run. What if you saw all that on an infoshop brochure?

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is a role for each generation, people can participate from their birth until death with uninterrupted transition.

Christian propaganda has become insidious, or at least, ubiquitous in pop culture. Christian rock, country and gospel have stations all over the country; television sitcoms portray the dilemmas of growing up Christian in a "secular" society; evangelizing radio dominates the airwaves and even recreation has gone Christian. Surfers, biker gangs and even punks have converted en masse. This obviates the message that being "for Jesus" is dowdy or dorky; in fact, it's cool. Even fashion has evolved to reinforce Christianity. "What would Jesus Do?" adorns jewelry, bags and the trim on clothes.

BOTH SIDES OF THE COIN

I view the Christian empire with a mixture of awe and disgust. There is much to be admired

fear and ignorance.

There are a few lessons which radical communities could take from the success of American Christianity. First, we will only be successful when we have no shame about what we believe. Broadcast is important, and people know when you're scared. There is a fine line between information and evangelism, but silence will never attract more people to radical movements. Second, many Christian communities work to be self-sufficient. The libertarian idea of independence can only be realized when we have both the competence to support ourselves and the communities to pool resources in. As Miles Stair reminds us, the government "has no affirmative duty to protect us" so well-being is the responsibility of individual and community (1). However, beyond some organizing strategies and a wee bit of love, Christianity has tormented this

hemisphere for centuries.

The morals of love and brotherhood purported to be such a part of the Christian experience often function as the rewards for good behavior. Churches allow anyone to "come as you are," but staying that way is often out of the question. Conformity includes creed, behavior and identity and becomes repressive quickly if one is not looking for imposed order. To someone seeking order, it can even be comforting. Unfortunately, the story passed on by most Christian sects is contaminated by St Paul (the defamer of Mary Magdalene) and the racism which brewed in Europe and exploded in the colonial Americas. Sunday morning is still the most segregated time in the US, which says a lot if many people depend on church for community and social welfare. Connections between sexual repression and abusive behavior have also been documented (2). As much as Christian morality denounces over-stimulation as unhealthy, lack of stimulation — whether knowledge of our bodies or just good fucking — does a whole lot of bad, too. It would be impossible to blame the US's "isms" entirely on Christianity, but the propaganda does certainly reinforces them.

Within the cocoon of the San Francisco Bay Area, it's easy to believe that radicalism has a chance to shape our society. Collectives are alive here; there are queer and anarchist people of color scenes, and protests regularly draw tens of thousands. But even if there were 500,000 post-lefties in the country, we are vastly outnumbered by the volume and communities of the right. Isolated, small town radicals may have a better idea of the work it will take to challenge the power and ideology of conservatism than Berkeley gardeners. So, engage the next bible seller you see, tell new creation stories, and send a spy to church if you can't stand to go yourself. We can't confront the Christians until we know enough to offer a real alternative.

(1) Miles has a great right wing survivalist page, endtimesreport.com. Besides avoiding the 'mark of the beast,' he's actually got good tips on self-sufficiency. (2) Eric Schlosser's book "Reefer Madness" has a whole section on the porn industry & American bipolar attitudes toward sexuality.

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**OFF YOUR TANK
AND ONTO A BIKE**



**BICYCLE LENDING-LIBRARY
WHEN: GRAND OPENING!**

MARCH 1st

**WHERE: W. MacArthur &
MLK in Oakland**

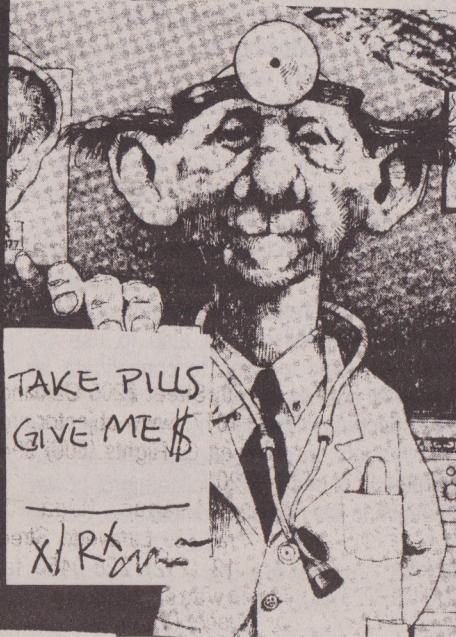
Surviving

Continued from page 4

system they work for is structured more like law enforcement than medical practice, and treats people who are labeled "patients" like they are criminals. People with a psychiatric diagnosis can be incarcerated and drugged against their will. The stigma alone has permanent effects on many people's ability to get health insurance, jobs, into school, be approved to adopt a child, or be believed as a witness, not to mention be free from prejudice from their own families and friends. It is nearly impossible for psychiatric survivors to win a case for injuries inflicted by psychiatrists, because they are easily discredited as "unstable". Unlike medical records, access to ones own psychiatric records can be denied "for the patient's own good". Freedom of speech also does not apply to psychiatric "patients". A psychiatrist is required by law to lock up anyone who admits that they feel suicidal, for a minimum of 72 hours. Psychiatric institutions are prisons where we get put into straight jackets and isolation, and get our brains washed, doped, lobotomized, and/or electrocuted, as the case may be. 2005 in Berkeley, and you can still get your brain fried at Herrick Hospital by people who are paid living wages for the privilege.

And the oppressive legacy of psychiatry continues as the Bush administration's "New Freedom Commission on Mental Health" is lobbying to screen all Americans for mental illness, beginning in the schools with children and their teachers, and eventually extending to everyone at routine annual doctor visits. This would result in psychiatric treatments with only the most expensive psychiatric drugs on the market, as the proposal is backed by pharmaceutical companies. It is already implemented in school districts in several states. Teachers all over the country have been pressured into dispensing drugs for some time now, and there are financial incentives for underfunded schools and families on welfare to label children as mentally ill. The number of ADD/ADHD diagnoses in schools have been

priority is to conceal their crime, but also in schools, at work, and in combat - our communication can no longer follow traditional patterns and we find ways to express our truths any way we see fit. Some of the resulting patterns and behaviors are considered awkward, unintelligible or even frightening, and rather than attempt to truly understand the troubled person's plight, our society readily stigmatizes us by labeling our communications symptoms of mental "illness". But no matter how cryptic our "craziness", to those who try to decipher the meaning, the same message keeps repeating: unresolved trauma causes ongoing disorientation, with the degree of disorientation being in direct relation to the degree of trauma. While it may seem disorderly in its extremes, this



disorientation, or "dissociation", is something all people do to varying degrees. It is in fact fundamental to human functioning: it filters useless or overwhelming information by fragmenting from consciousness experiences, feelings, memory, other people, ones own body, sense of self, reality, and more...

Trauma and the difficulty of working through it, are at the core of why individuals are labeled "mentally ill." When we are

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dancing, capoeira, martial arts, self-defense, art and music, keeping a journal, changes in life style, such as nutritional, sleep, home or work environment, and finding supportive relationships and ending abusive ones. One of the more interesting approaches is Soma, which was featured in a recent edition of Slingshot, but to the best of my knowledge is available only in Brazil. But the most important consideration in seeking help is personal rapport with therapists and allies, and agreement on fundamental boundaries and concerns. Method (if any) and structure can then be negotiated. It's best to go for a mixture of approaches that work for you.

Trauma is both universal, yet deeply personal, and psychotherapists come in many flavors. Many therapists believe in psychological categories of how humans function, either based on the biological reductionist models of pathology or drive, or on personality typing or ego states, or according to various vague religious explanations of destiny, fate, or karma. Their solutions range from remedies intended to "cure illness", to modifying behavior, to talking and supporting their clients in developing insight, self-awareness, autonomy, self-esteem, hope, and self-determination. In order not to be retraumatized it is essential to get some questions answered before entering into a therapeutic alliance. One of the potential pitfalls of searching for allies is that the anti-psychiatry movement is comprised of a wide political range, from psychiatric survivors, Marxists, Civil Libertarians, to the Church of Scientology (as the Citizens Commission on Human Rights). Even Co-Counseling seems to have its origins in Dianetics, and has been criticized for their sectarian practices, and history of sexual abuse and abuse of authority by its founder. Another issue most people will be confronted with when exploring therapy options, is the trend to apply the term "codependence", which originally implied a partner of a person dependent on alcohol or drugs, to all interdependence and to thereby discourage any truly intimate relationships. Fundamentally, the first step in recovery is

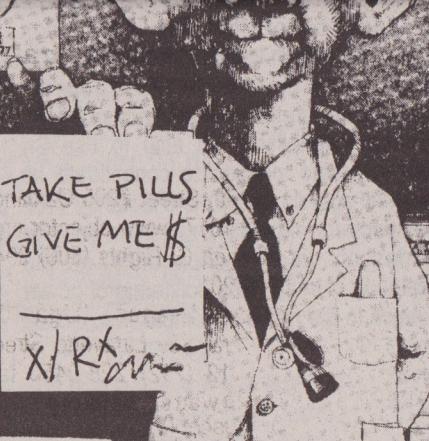
a time when people so categorized are stripped of their human rights, is using not only the symbols, the language, but the very attitude and perpetuating it. In this system differently-abled people may have to accept being labeled, just to provide for such basic needs as housing, food, and health care. Plenty of people would love an excuse to take away the meager disability benefits some of us receive as a result of our inability to function in this abusive system. Our political objections may make us feel like liars, so we push ourselves beyond our limitations to prove we are not disordered, or we validate the labels by acting them out instead of our own experiences. Either way it is fundamentally problematic to use labels that define our humanity as a medical problem, because it adds to any mental confusion we are struggling with. We must dismantle the language that oppresses us, while somehow keeping what little support is available to us in place.

Since the brain storm at the Long Haul, some of us are in the process of putting together a resource guide to help activists in crisis navigate the system, including emotional and mental support, advocacy, legal aid, access to medical care, disability benefits, and other basic needs, information and personal stories about recognizing trauma and how to survive it. We'd also like to create a safe space where activists can share about their struggles and network for support, both casually over tea, or more formally in workshops, support groups, and one on one peer support. Ideally we would like our own free emotional crisis clinic for people not willing to be labeled "mentally ill", that is politically conscious of class, gender, racism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression. But until we can accomplish such an ambitious task, we must start small. I urge you to do your own research of what support options are appropriate for your situation, share resources, educate your co-ops and affinity groups, talk openly and honestly about your experiences, and always defend your full range of emotions. Most importantly, be good to yourselves and each other: this rotten to the core system won't do it for you.

suicidal, for a minimum of 72 hours. Psychiatric institutions are prisons where we get put into straight jackets and isolation, and get our brains washed, doped, lobotomized, and/or electrocuted, as the case may be. 2005 in Berkeley, and you can still get your brain fried at Herrick Hospital by people who are paid living wages for the privilege.

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In contrast, psychoanalysis, even though it evolved out of psychiatry, is practiced mostly by people who do not claim to be doctors. Freud's "talking cure" developed from the discovery that traumatic experiences cause mental confusion (now called "dissociation"), and are often acted out unconsciously, without any conscious memory of the traumatic event itself. He found that the confusion could be alleviated to varying degrees by bringing the traumatic memories into consciousness and by talking about them. But in an oppressive society that normalizes abuse, the truth is inherently unwanted, and secrecy is part and parcel of psychiatry. The psychiatric community threatened to ostracize Freud for revealing the frequency of child abuse, and he abandoned his most relevant psychological findings, and replaced them with the theory that memories of abuse are really fantasies of the victim. This act continues to have lasting



disorientation, or "dissociation", is something all people do to varying degrees. It is in fact fundamental to human functioning: it filters useless or overwhelming information by fragmenting from consciousness experiences, feelings, memory, other people, ones own body, sense of self, reality, and more...

Trauma and the difficulty of working through it, are at the core of why individuals are labeled "mentally ill." When we are traumatized we are confronted with a reality too overwhelming to cope with. Sometimes the shock is so great that people can't find words to tell their stories, are in fact speechless, catatonic. After the traumatic event is past, some of us begin to behave strangely, while others continue seemingly unaffected. But regardless of how it looks from the outside, traumatized people frequently feel a sudden disconnection from reality, often re-experiencing the event as though it was still happening in the present. We are easily triggered by reminders, and defend ourselves against the intrusive flashbacks by numbing out the present along with the past. The resulting confusions distort reality to varying degrees, sometimes to the degree of hearing voices, having visual hallucinations, and body memories. Many develop insomnia to avoid nightmares, and are too frightened and depressed to participate in life.

I personally didn't leave my home for several years because I was overwhelmed with several deaths among my closest friends, one due to police violence, which was followed by a threat to my livelihood by my abusive boss, and then a sexual violation, which catapulted me into flashbacks of a terrifying childhood. I became suicidal, fluctuated between manic anxiety and exhausted grief, and starved myself into the hospital. My dreams were so vivid I couldn't tell

solutions range from remedies intended to "cure illness", to modifying behavior, to talking and supporting their clients in developing insight, self-awareness, autonomy, self-esteem, hope, and self-determination. In order not to be retraumatized it is essential to get some questions answered before entering into a therapeutic alliance. One of the potential pitfalls of searching for allies is that the anti-psychiatry movement is comprised of a wide political range, from psychiatric survivors, Marxists, Civil Libertarians, to the Church of Scientology (as the Citizens Commission on Human Rights). Even Co-Counseling seems to have its origins in Dianetics, and has been criticized for their sectarian practices, and history of sexual abuse and abuse of authority by its founder. Another issue most people will be confronted with when exploring therapy options, is the trend to apply the term "codependence", which originally implied a partner of a person dependent on alcohol or drugs, to all interdependence and to thereby discourage any truly intimate relationships. Fundamentally, the first step in recovery is finding a place where it is safe for the fog to lift, so that the truth can be integrated into conscious reality, and can then be acted upon.

Truth telling is part of both recovery and revolution. Language can be either oppressive or liberating. Many people who have been labeled, feel that the labels are useful, because it provides them with a language to put their struggle into words. While it may be helpful to embrace some of the psychiatric labels as metaphor, we have to take care not to actually pathologize our struggle and our humanity in the bargain. Reclaiming labels is a powerful act, but just like the swastika is too loaded a symbol to appropriate for any meaning other than fascism, talking about "mental illness" at

together a resource guide to help activists in crisis navigate the system, including emotional and mental support, advocacy, legal aid, access to medical care, disability benefits, and other basic needs, information and personal stories about recognizing trauma and how to survive it. We'd also like to create a safe space where activists can share about their struggles and network for support, both casually over tea, or more formally in workshops, support groups, and one-on-one peer support. Ideally we would like our own free emotional crisis clinic for people not willing to be labeled "mentally ill", that is politically conscious of class, gender, racism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression. But until we can accomplish such an ambitious task, we must start small. I urge you to do your own research of what support options are appropriate for your situation, share resources, educate your co-ops and affinity groups, talk openly and honestly about your experiences, and always defend your full range of emotions. Most importantly, be good to yourselves and each other: this rotten to the core system won't do it for you.

Sources for my analysis are too many to list here, but the books I recommend most are: *Trauma and Recovery – The aftermath of violence – from domestic abuse to political terror* by Judith Lewis Herman *The Manufacture of Madness – A Comparative Study of the Inquisition and the Mental Health Movement* by Thomas S. Szasz *The Assault on Truth – Freud's Suppression of the Seduction Theory* by Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson For questions, further dialogue, or if you have resources you'd like to share with the community, Dr. Ruthless can be contacted at feralmadwoman@riseup.net

mindfreedom

Momentum continues to grow for MindFreedom International's 2005 Action Conference April 29 to May 2 entitled, "Activism for Human Rights in Mental Health: How the Law Can Support Grassroots Action for Human Rights in the Mental Health System." The 2005 Action Conference will bring together key leaders, activists, allies and

Health Services", the committee that reviews federal grants for mental health services, is advocating for more coercive psychiatric treatments, including more outpatient commitment, which court orders people to take psychiatric drugs against their will, and is already well established in most US states.

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Speaking our Minds

When self-articulation is chronically discouraged or made impossible through the imposition of secrets, confusion and lies – especially in abusive homes where the abusers'

to tell their stories, are in fact speechless, catatonic. After the traumatic event is past, some of us begin to behave strangely, while others continue seemingly unaffected. But regardless of how it looks from the outside, traumatized people frequently feel a sudden disconnection from reality, often re-experiencing the event as though it was still happening in the present. We are easily triggered by reminders, and defend ourselves against the intrusive flashbacks by numbing out the present along with the past. The resulting confusions distort reality to varying degrees, sometimes to the degree of hearing voices, having visual hallucinations, and body memories. Many develop insomnia to avoid nightmares, and are too frightened and depressed to participate in life.

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Among the available tools for recovery are a wide variety of therapists (psychologist, social worker, eco-psychologist, shaman,...) with a wide variety of methods (EMDR, bio-energetic, transactional analysis, non-violent communication, primal scream,...), guided and anonymous groups with specific focus (addiction, abuse, grief,...), peer counselors, herbs, massage, meditation, yoga, tai chi,

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Pre-registration is required. MindFreedom Support Coalition International is a grassroots human rights non-profit uniting over 100 sponsor groups in 15 countries working for human rights and alternatives in mental health. The organization is a Non Governmental Organization accredited by the United Nations. Sometimes called the "Amnesty International of mental health," MindFreedom is independent from any government, mental health provider, drug company or religion.

For more info, contact: MindFreedom 454 Willamette, Suite 216 PO Box 11284 Eugene, OR 9744-3484, www.MindFreedom.org

"Natural" Disaster? P P P

Continued from page 3

were guided by concern for profits not people, greed not need, despite many warnings by environmentalists about the potential impact of the loss of mangrove forests. Sharma points out that at the very time the tsunami struck, logging companies were busy axing mangroves in the Aceh province in Sumatra for exports to Malaysia and Singapore. "Ecologists tell us that mangroves provide double protection — the first layer of red mangroves with their flexible branches and tangled roots hanging in the coastal waters absorb the first shock waves. The second layer of tall black mangroves then operates like a wall withstanding much of the sea's fury. Mangroves in addition absorb more carbon dioxide per unit area than ocean phytoplankton, a critical factor in global warming." The market-driven eco-collapse behind the disastrous effect of the tsunami has been underplayed by the capitalist media.

Spectacle's Schizophrenia

Indeed, at the heart of the way the media have treated the tsunami's havoc is a kind of schizophrenia in the face of the everyday tragedy of misdevelopment and inequality that ravages the Global South. At the core of the way the neoliberal corporate governments have responded is a similar schizophrenia. The extraordinary perhaps excessive "tidal wave" of charity masks an underlying indecency in the way our Spectacular world is organized — its fundamental dehumanizing indifference to the massive death of the poor. Natural disaster is a natural candidate for media and charity hype. Horrific suffering of the innocent is momentarily turned into the spectacle of the month, a barrage of benefit concerts, while the

curriculum in the inculcation of dependency, drying up the wellsprings of self-sufficiency, reinforcing hierarchical structures that serve well ruling class interests. The governments in all the affected countries have sought to build a consciousness of victimization by "natural disaster" to deflect public anger.

Another aspect of such a frenzy of focus is the "tsunami relief industry," largely Western, that rushes in with NGOs and bureaucrats quite literally to "exploit an emergency to reproduce their own bureaucracies," for their own benefit, to justify their own existence, as detailed in an insightful article on the "accomplices of destruction" [10]. As Arundhati Roy reminds us: "NGOs...defuse political anger and dole out as aid or benevolence what people ought to have by right. They alter the public psyche. They turn people into dependent victims and blunt the edges of political resistance. . . . They unwittingly reinforce racist stereotypes and re-affirm the achievements, the comforts, and the compassion (the tough love) of Western civilization. They're the secular missionaries of the modern world" [11].

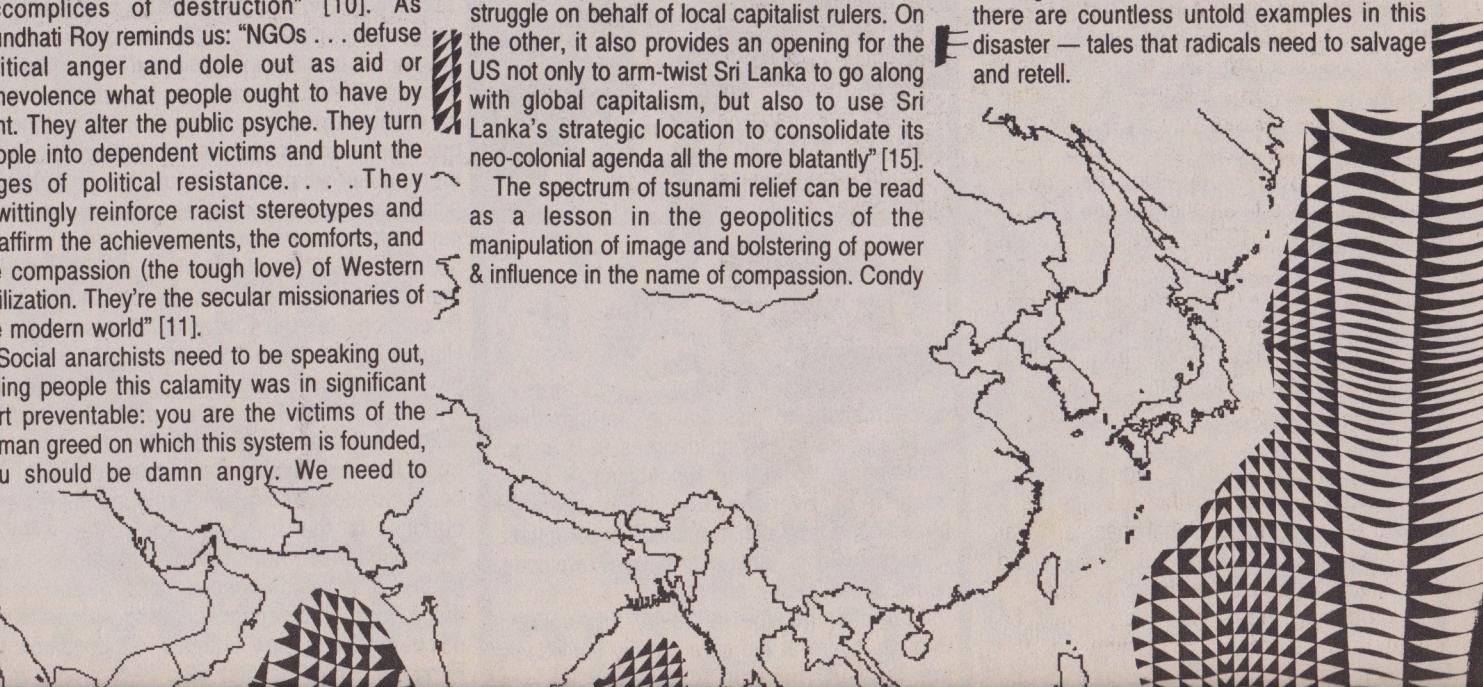
Social anarchists need to be speaking out, telling people this calamity was in significant part preventable: you are the victims of the human greed on which this system is founded, you should be damn angry. We need to

"regional hub" for a massive redeployment of military equipment and personnel, with the linchpin at U-tapao. And the pictures beamed across the planet of American soldiers helping distressed Moslem survivors in Indonesia is engineered to 'improve' Washington's 'image' in the Moslem world and beyond, while at the same time reproducing and demonstrating capitalism's military hegemony. Socialists in Sri Lanka (New Left Front) have called for the removal of American troops there: "On the one hand, it is an opportunity for the US to gain a foothold with designs to suppress the LTTE and control the Tamil liberation struggle on behalf of local capitalist rulers. On the other, it also provides an opening for the US not only to arm-twist Sri Lanka to go along with global capitalism, but also to use Sri Lanka's strategic location to consolidate its neo-colonial agenda all the more blatantly" [15].

The spectrum of tsunami relief can be read as a lesson in the geopolitics of the manipulation of image and bolstering of power & influence in the name of compassion. Condy

where Chao Lay nomadic fisher communities on the Andaman coast — so-called 'sea gypsies' — read the warning signs according to ancient sea lore and were able to flee in time to higher ground [17].

Fundamental here are basic eco-socialist water management, sustainable rural communities, a proper infrastructure of roads, adequate health care, a halt to the destruction of mangroves and their restoration. Decentralized empowerment would mean working class people doing far more for themselves on the ground where they are. This is the grassroots mutual aid in action, of which there are countless untold examples in this disaster — tales that radicals need to salvage and retell.



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Certainly 12/26 has been the most mediatised natural catastrophe in modern memory. As Mike Whitney notes: "This is where the western press really excels: in the celebratory atmosphere of human catastrophe. Their penchant for misery is only surpassed by their appetite for profits. The manipulation of calamity is particularly disturbing, especially when disaster is translated into a revenue windfall. . . . Simply put, tragedy is good for business. When it comes to Iraq, however, the whole paradigm shifts to the right. The dead and maimed are faithfully hidden from view. . . . The uneven coverage (of Iraq and the tsunami) highlights an industry in meltdown. Today's privately owned media may bury one story, and yet, manipulate another to boost ratings. They are just as likely to exploit the suffering of Asians, while ignoring the pain of Iraqis" [8]. The anti-

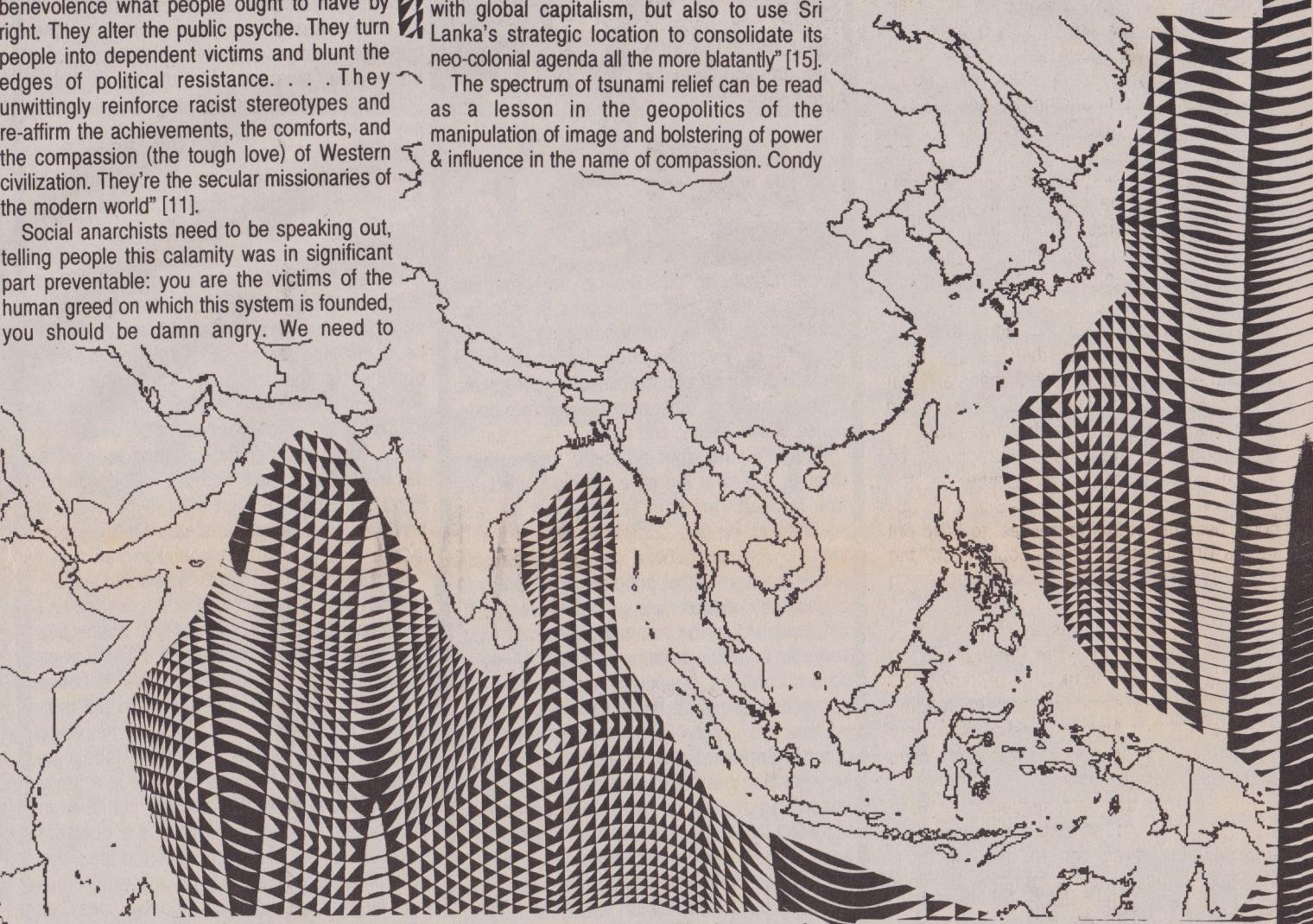
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contemplate how to make this disaster a "politicizing" factor for self-action and rage against governments, statecraft elites and their inevitable failures — instead of one more lever for intensifying depoliticization and the

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2 Giles Ji Ungpakorn (Workers Democracy, Bangkok), "A 'natural' disaster made worse by the profit system," Socialist Worker, 8 Jan 2005, www.socialistworker.co.uk; see also the insightful interview with Mike Davis, "The burden falls on the poorest societies," Socialist Worker, 7 Jan 2005, www.socialistworker.org

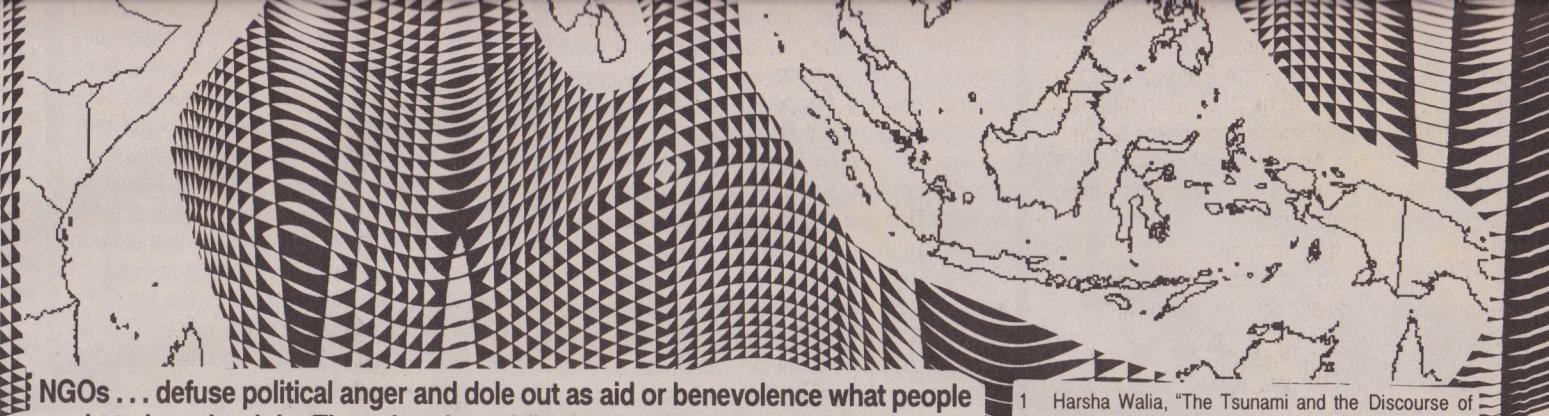
3 "What if an early warning had been given?" The Nation (Bangkok), 31 Dec 2004, www.nationmultimedia.com As a ranking Thai official noted: "The important factor in making the decision was that it's high season and hotel rooms were nearly 100-per-cent full. If we had issued a warning, which would have led to an evacuation, [and if nothing happened], what would happen then? Business

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Compassion and Victimization as Control

Harsha Walia stresses that "political global compassion is often an ideology of political and social control couched in euphemisms and contradictions of humanitarian intervention. . . . Let us be clear that there is no doubt that humanitarian work in order to save lives and provide adequate access to food and shelter is absolutely necessary. But the larger context must never be lost: international aid and NGO work will largely defuse the anger of those affected by the tsunami. . . . The power and anger of the people has again been channeled into victimization to curb any political resistance" [9]. Central here is the entire hierarchical structure of much aid — top-down, dispersed by international governments and NGOs. Handouts construct a whole



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contemplate how to make this disaster a "politicizing" factor for self-action and rage against governments, statecraft elites and their inevitable failures — instead of one more lever for intensifying depoliticization and the passivity of the victim. That is also fed by the culture of 'fate,' what Thai Buddhists call 'duang,' acquiescence in the face of 'predestined' oppression and suffering.

The Tsunami and its Geopolitics

Troops in Aceh, Sri Lanka and Thailand have all been fighting separatist insurgencies for years. After the tsunami, these troops were more focused on these internal insurgencies than mobilizing to assist the Cataclysm's victims [12]. This is another reason why Washington found it convenient to step in with such a massive 'military humanitarian' presence, conveniently attuned to its own geopolitical interests and imperatives across the region.

Indeed, Bush's Pentagon is eager to reenter its old Vietnam War era military base U-tapao in Chonburi province 90 miles south of Bangkok [13]. Washington has been pressing Bangkok for the past 18 months to allow it to use Thailand as its new "forward positioning" site facilitating its armed forces in the war against terrorists in Southeast Asia [14]. Now that door has been opened, as Thailand is made a

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Communalist Alternatives to Social Atomization?

An anarchist network of socialist communities grounded on mutual aid, radical direct democracy, self-organization and self-help, would know better how to respond to disaster. It would be better prepared by assuring that what safeguards exist are equally shared, not reserved for Hawaii, Japan, and the California coast. It would redirect the vast expenditures on the military toward help for the people. The networks of associated communities and regions would be able to distribute assistance where needed more equitably, more rapidly and without the vast corruption associated now with NGOs and their channeling of humanitarian aid through hierarchies of authority. The people would have had a proper system of information and education about the danger of massive Walls of Water. The need for science for the people is a natural moral of this horrific tale. Anarchist information structures could tap the reservoirs of traditional folk knowledge, reconnecting with the Earth, as in Thailand

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4 Arthur Lerner-Lam et al., "Simple Science Could Have Saved Thousands," Los Angeles Times, 30 Dec 2004

5 Fred Goldstein, "Cuba leads world in managing disasters," Workers World, 20 Jan 2005, www.workers.org

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17 "Wisdom of the sea," Bangkok Post, 17 Jan 2005, www.bangkokpost.com

Continued
from page 1

Global

waves, more frequent hurricanes, mud slides, floods. The sea does not rise smoothly.

National and international climate scientists, including analysts at the Pentagon, agree that humans have caused air and ocean temperatures to rise over the past 50 years — essentially ruling out natural climate variation as the cause. Greenhouse gasses, like carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, are emitted by almost every facet of industrial life, including driving, power generation, mass-scale farming, waste disposal, and of course many industries. Carbon dioxide is by far the most common greenhouse gas. Others, like sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), a popular non-toxic insulating gas here at ground level, are less prevalent than CO₂ but absorb far more heat in the upper atmosphere. Deforestation is a major contributor to rising CO₂ levels, as CO₂-absorbing rainforest is converted into cash crop fields.

Scientists long thought that climate change happened gradually — presumably giving society time to adapt. But recent evidence from Arctic ice cores suggests that in fact climate change can happen very quickly, over the course of a few years!

Rising global temperatures could paradoxically lead to another ice age in some areas as soon as 2010-2020, while other areas get warmer. Temperatures could fall 5-6 degrees F in the northeastern United States and northern Europe, as the warm gulf stream is disrupted by fresh water from melting glaciers. In parts of South America, Australia, and southern Africa, temperatures could rise 4 degrees F.

According to a 2003 Pentagon analysis, which classifies the possible ice age as a national security priority, global chaos and war could break out soon after 2010. Britain could resemble Siberia, intense droughts could hit food producing areas, and wars could be fought over water. According to the Pentagon, rich areas like the US and Europe

Here in California, we are already seeing the effects of global warming in our water system. It's likely that dams will have to be raised all over the state to store drinking and irrigation water, as warmer temperatures lead to less snow pack in the Sierras, and precipitation patterns become more chaotic. The Colorado River basin is experiencing the worst drought in 500 years, with effects worse than during the Dust Bowl.

US culpability

Since there's no question that humans are causing catastrophic climate change, why is the mere reduction in industrial greenhouse gas emissions offered by fuel efficiency standards, clean coal technology, and industrial emissions trading an acceptable goal? Perhaps the point is to merely attempt to postpone global disaster a little bit, till the seawalls and concertina wire guarding Fortress America have been beefed up. "Sorry guys, we tried to pass that fuel efficiency bill, but the political atmosphere just wasn't working with us?"

Better fuel efficiency standards are an obvious, reasonable idea, but they will only guarantee that each individual vehicle emits fewer greenhouse gasses per mile of driving. Automobile industry executives, and the

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WARMing

greenhouse gas emissions. New technology always has unintended negative side effects, often not diagnosed for years after the technology has been in everyday use.

Furthermore, the US government is very specific about how it invests in more "environmentally-friendly" technology. For example, approximately 850 new coal plants are scheduled to be built in China, India, and the US by 2012, which would spew almost 5 times as much carbon dioxide as the Kyoto Protocol aims to reduce, according to a study done by the *Christian Science Monitor*. Of the 72 plants likely to be built in the US, only 2 are currently designed to use cleaner coal technology, called Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) technology, which would siphon off CO₂ before it goes up the smokestack. The US Department of Energy says they want to continue developing new technology by 2012 — but funding for a key IGCC experimental program is missing in action! Even US 'dirty coal' plants are more efficient than those in China or India, who are planning 562 and 213 new plants, respectively. Both countries are scrambling to fuel ballooning economies — to the pleasure of international investors.

Capitalists responded to global warming

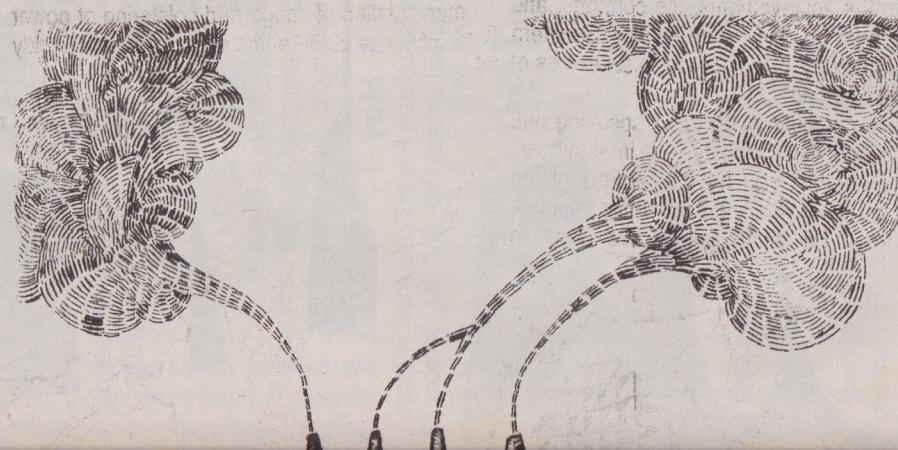
more than the US wheat market, and companies will soon begin to trade mercury emissions and even endangered species!

Are we screwed?

What does a radical, anti-capitalist campaign against global warming look like? We are in the middle of a major war geared towards securing access to oil — which will all eventually be burned into the atmosphere. Fossil fuel consumption irrevocably links the Iraq occupation and global warming. The dead Iraqis ultimately caused by that SUV driving down the street are sadly matched by dead Haitians, Inuits, 3,000 French people killed by a heat wave in 2003, and countless others. This is an issue at the intersection of almost every single-issue campaign: the environment, poverty, racism and classism on global scales. The commercial trucks that emit 13% of US carbon dioxide emissions also spew asthma-causing compounds into the frequently low-income communities near shipping centers, like West Oakland.

It is hard *not* to find the United States responsible for the devastation of climate change, despite industrial and economic growth apologists. The US contributes directly — due to massive greenhouse gas emissions — and indirectly, through resource mining, labor, and trade policies that destabilize lower-impact ways of life in favor of engorged economic growth. It's not just the policies of the Bush administration that are to blame. The Affluent First World lifestyle, epitomized by the popularity of the Hummer, fuels this near-term time bomb. Almost everybody living in the US contributes to the country's effect on global warming, whether we intend to or not, because greenhouse gas sources are the structural basis of our society.

Societies with fewer emissions are less industrialized. The fight is both cultural and structural — what will create the cultural change of everybody retiring their refrigerator in favor of "old fashioned" cold



from Arctic ice cores suggests that in fact climate change can happen very quickly, over the course of a few years!

Rising global temperatures could paradoxically lead to another ice age in some areas as soon as 2010-2020, while other areas get warmer. Temperatures could fall 5-6 degrees F in the northeastern United States and northern Europe, as the warm gulf stream is disrupted by fresh water from melting glaciers. In parts of South America, Australia, and southern Africa, temperatures could rise 4 degrees F.

According to a 2003 Pentagon analysis, which classifies the possible ice age as a national security priority, global chaos and war could break out soon after 2010. Britain could resemble Siberia, intense droughts could hit food producing areas, and wars could be fought over water. According to the Pentagon, rich areas like the US and Europe could become "virtual fortresses" to keep out waves of migrating "boat people" from the rest of the world (as if this wasn't happening already).

How likely is this doomsday scenario? It is, of course, hard to say. The Pentagon report was designed to "think the unthinkable." Although it was commissioned by leading Pentagon planner Andrew Marshall, it was not passed on to his superiors and was suppressed by the Bush administration.

The Pentagon approach suggests that we in the US have to stretch our minds in inconceivable directions to even imagine weather-related disasters common in other parts of the world. From the American position at the top of the food chain, it's not at all "unthinkable" for Haiti or Bangladesh or some low-lying Pacific atoll country — unheard of except by locals and rich adventure eco-tourists — to be devastated by rising sea levels, heavy rainfall, and flooding.

Villages in the Himalayas are already being washed away, as mountain lakes formed by melting glaciers burst their natural dams and flood valleys. The Inuit in the Arctic face imminent destruction of their way of life as ice and permafrost melts, ending their access to food and collapsing roads and runways. People in poor countries everywhere, living on deforested hillsides, risk death as heavier rains cause mud slides and flooding.

But it is somehow shocking when south Florida is wiped out by hurricanes, or when mud slides cover homes in southern California — even though similar events happen here

better fuel efficiency standards are an obvious, reasonable idea, but they will only guarantee that each individual vehicle emits fewer greenhouse gasses per mile of driving. Automobile industry executives, and the

planning CO2 and CFC now plans, respectively. Both countries are scrambling to fuel ballooning economies — to the pleasure of international investors.

Capitalists responded to global warming



current presidential administration, would still be happy if more people bought more cars and drove more miles every day, driving not only their new vehicles but presumably The Economy. This, in fact, is the essence of Bush's porous approach to global warming, which advocates reducing "greenhouse gas intensity"

typically, by opening the Chicago Climate Exchange in 2003. Member companies can trade reductions in their emissions — commodifying, and therefore approving, the right to pollute. The atmosphere, something that moves fluidly around the globe, can now be portioned off to companies — privatized

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There are hundreds of legislation-based "good ideas" that would limit greenhouse gas emissions on a mass scale, from fuel efficiency standards, emissions limits, increased funding for non-fossil fuel energy sources, public transportation. But legislation that comes out of an industrial power structure won't ever fully stop industrial emissions. Emissions are a waste product of industry; capitalism is only interested in *limits* if they produce *value* in some way, like on the Climate Exchange. The severity of the scientific evidence, of our global environmental and social predicament, is not matched by gradual, within-the-system solutions to global warming. These approaches are limited by the weakness of the hands applying them.

Any activist work done to counter first world consumption is work against global warming, and any community organizing against potential environmental disaster is valuable in countless ways. Cuba has a well organized system of neighborhood response to hurricanes that helps prevent disasters like that in Haiti last summer, where the government was already destabilized with US help. Organizing for a coming disaster — figuring out how to get fresh water and food in a non-industrial context, for example — is a good way to bring the serious consequences of

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But it is somehow shocking when south Florida is wiped out by hurricanes, or when mud slides cover homes in southern California — even though similar events happen here every few years. The same economy that is driving global warming has created an infrastructure in the US that can withstand extreme weather far better than a tent city housing migrant factory workers in, say, China, Malaysia, or Ciudad Juarez. But even apparently sturdy societal infrastructure is only as solid as the land upon which it rests. Driven by growth, development in the US is continually expanding into unstable ecological areas — like floodplains and the desert hills and mountains around LA — that leave even suburban Americans disaster prone.



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Bush hopes to achieve this false reduction with the development of new, environmentally benevolent technology. This is humorous, because technology development is always shaped by who controls the development — in this case, the same capitalist class hell bent on burning every last bit of fossil fuel. The Bush administration recently awarded \$1.2 billion for hydrogen-burning car development — hardly environmentally benign, despite lower

typically, by opening the Chicago Climate Exchange in 2003. Member companies can trade reductions in their emissions — commodifying, and therefore approving, the right to pollute. The atmosphere, something that moves fluidly around the globe, can now be portioned off to companies — privatized. "Americans always felt their air and water was free," Richard Sandor, CEO and founder of the Exchange, noted in the *Christian Science Monitor*. "But that's just not true anymore and we felt we could apply that to markets." When Company A reduces their emissions and sells the reduction to Company B, the people living around Company A benefit with cleaner air to breath. But those around B continue to suffer, and the emissions themselves, "rightfully" emitted, cannot be controlled. This capitalist mindgame is highly popular: the US market for sulfur emissions is now worth

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The climate has inertia — it takes a long time to see the effects of climate change. Sea levels will continue to rise for several hundred years after CO₂ emissions are stabilized. Clearly, the earth is responding powerfully to the current weight of first world living — not to mention the burgeoning capitalist growth in China, India, and other parts of the world. Can radicals organize for community sustainability — and for the very real possibility of industrial collapse?

2005 Slingshot Organizer closeout! SALE!
prices dropping faster than we can drop acid - see pg. 2

ACTION

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February

February 16 - 23

Queeruption 7! Radical queer DIY gathering. Sydney, Australia. www.queeruption.org

March

March 1

East Bay bicycle lending library opens at W. MacArthur and MLK

March 3-5

The 20th Annual Empowering Women of Color Conference of 2005, themed "Confronting Power: A Century of Struggle and Movements" at Berkeley Art Museum (BAM) and UC Berkeley. Pre-register online at ewocc.berkeley.edu or in-person beginning March 3 at 6 p.m. in BAM or at 8 a.m. March 5 in MLK.

March 5

Going Public: Radical Resistance in Education. Miami University, Oxford, OH. reers@muohio.edu

March 8

6th Annual Global Women's Strike. End poverty and war-invest in caring not killing! A living wage for all our work and pay equity in the global market. See www.globalwomensstrike.net for more info.

March 11 • 8 pm

Slingshot newspaper's 17th birthday party. Food, fun, dancing after Berkeley Critical Mass bike ride (which starts at 6 pm at Berkeley BART). Free. 3124 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley.

March 15

International Day Against Police Brutality. Take the streets, talk to your neighbors! Show the world that police are worthless.

March 18 - 20

"Reclaim Your Health!" a do-it-yourself health fair. Share knowledge and reclaim your body — practical workshops to educate and empower. reclaimyourhealth@riseup.net www.geocities.com/reclaimyourhealthdetroit

March 19-20

Global Day of Coordinated Actions on the 2nd Anniversary of the "Shock and Awe" Invasion of Iraq. Mass demonstrations in Washington DC, San Francisco, Los Angeles and other cities.

in my

calendar

March 26 • 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

San Francisco Anarchist Book Fair. County Fair Building, 9th and Lincoln in Golden Gate Park. Free.

March 27 • 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Bay Area Anarchist Conference sponsored by Bay Area Students Toward Anarchist Research and Development (BASTARD). Location @ UC Berkeley. <http://sfbay-anarchists.org/conference/>

April

April 17

Cafe night at The Long Haul; Berkeley, CA, presenting That's Revolting! Queer Strategies For Resisting Assimilation as performed by Mattilda.

April 29 - May 2

"Activism for Human Rights in Mental Health." Conference in Washington D.C. (See article page 17.) www.MindFreedom.org

April 30 - May 1

"Building our Sustainable Future Conference" in Tucson, Arizona. Food Not Bombs, P.O. Box 744, Tucson, AZ 85702, 520-770-0575

May

May 1

MAY DAY! International Workers Day! Support workers and unions. Down with bosses!

May 7 - 9

Madison, Wisconsin Anarchist Bookfair. circle_a_books@riseup.net, 608-262-9036

May 21 • 10 am - 6 pm

Montreal Anarchist Bookfair; 2515 rue Delisle (near Lionel-Groulx metro) Montreal, Quebec. For more Info: anarchistbookfair@taktic.org, <http://anarchistbookfair.taktic.org>

May 30 - June 6

Queeruption 8! Radical queer DIY gathering. Barcelona, Spain. www.queeruption.org

& On...

July 6

Global Day of Action to protest the opening day of the 2005 G8 Summit in Gleneagles, Perthshire, United

October 7-9

Anarchist People of Color (APOC) conference in Houston, Texas. See pg. 4 inside this issue for more details!